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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Global progress towards the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children, and significant results from accelerated child survival activities in the late 1980s, are being registered, despite setbacks in some complex-emergency countries. A set of mid-decade goals has been widely endorsed and action to achieve them is seriously under way in most countries. Completed national programmes of action and ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are approaching the status of near total coverage of the world's child population. High level commitment and action towards keeping the promise of the Summit are multiplying. The present report provides a brief review of major developments globally and in each region since the last updated report, recent action within the United Nations system, by non-governmental organizations and the private sector to help keep alive the promise of the Summit, and the increasingly critical issue of the resources needed to sustain the momentum. It concludes with some considerations on the mid-decade progress review called for by the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s.

2. The World Summit for Children, held at the United Nations in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, brought together 71 heads of State or Government, together with delegations from an additional 88 countries led by ministers and ambassadors, to focus on children around the world. They issued a World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, and endorsed a detailed Plan of Action for implementing that Declaration (A/45/625, annex) in order to reach ambitious but achievable goals for the decade of the 1990s.

3. In its resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption by the World Summit for Children of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action, and urged (a) all States and other members of the international community to work for the achievement of the goals endorsed therein; (b) the donor countries, especially, to assist developing countries in achieving those goals; and (c) all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including their governing bodies, to provide support for the follow-up of the World Summit for Children. In the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1992, on the implementation of that resolution. Upon reviewing that report, the Assembly in its decision 47/447 of 22 December 1992, requested the Secretary-General to submit an updated report for consideration at its forty-eighth session. At that session, in its decision 48/446 of 21 December 1993, the Assembly again requested an updated report for consideration at its forty-ninth session. The present document has been prepared in response to the latter request.

4. The goals and objectives of the World Summit for Children have been endorsed by subsequent high level meetings such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, and the International Conference on Nutrition, held at Rome in December 1992. It is expected that the International Conference on Population and Development, to be

held at Cairo in September 1994, will also express its endorsement of the commitments made at the World Summit for Children.

II. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOALS FOR CHILDREN AND DEVELOPMENT BY THE YEAR 2000

A. The progress of nations

5. Four years since the event, and with the middle of the decade of the 1990s fast approaching, it is time to begin to look for results from the commitment made by the 158 countries that have signed the Declaration of the World Summit for Children and pledged to achieve a set of goals for the survival, development and protection of children by the year 2000. For a number of the goals, the data are still insufficient and monitoring mechanisms are still being put into place. For many, the 1990 baselines are only now being determined. Nevertheless, especially with reference to conditions a decade or more ago, evidence is increasingly clear that a major and widespread effort for children is under way and that, despite the numbers of children afflicted by civil conflict, natural disasters and the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in various parts of the world, there is an increasingly good prospect that a majority of the "promises" will be kept for the great majority of the world's children.

6. The momentum for these achievements was built up around the child survival and development efforts of the 1980s. The acceleration of the expanded programme of immunization in the 1980s, of efforts to disseminate knowledge and use of oral rehydration therapy, to reverse the current trend to avoid prolonged breast-feeding and to promote family planning and other basic health initiatives, gave the World Summit for Children, as it were, a running start. It is not surprising, therefore, that the strongest evidence of progress towards the goals of the Summit is in these areas.

7. Deaths from measles have declined by 60 per cent in the decade from 1982 to 1992, while reported cases of measles in developing countries have fallen by more than two thirds in the same period (see figure 1). Deaths from dehydration as a result of diarrhoea have fallen from 4 million a year to less than 3 million, thanks largely to the use of oral rehydration therapy, and the death toll from recent epidemics of cholera would have been much worse were it not for its widespread use. In 10 years, infant deaths from neonatal tetanus have been cut from more than 1 million a year to just over half a million. Polio is close to being eradicated in several regions of the developing world, with no cases registered in the western hemisphere for three years. A steady decline in polio cases throughout the developing world bears witness to the impact of the drive for universal child immunization in the late 1980s and the sustaining of high coverage since the World Summit (see figure 2).

Figure 1: Measles in Developing Countries: Reported incidence compared with immunization coverage, 1982-1993

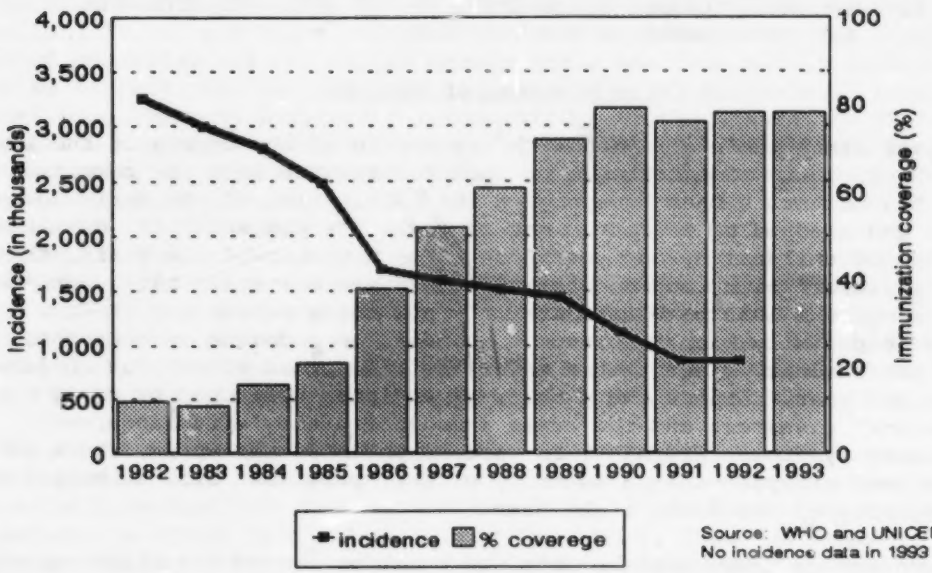
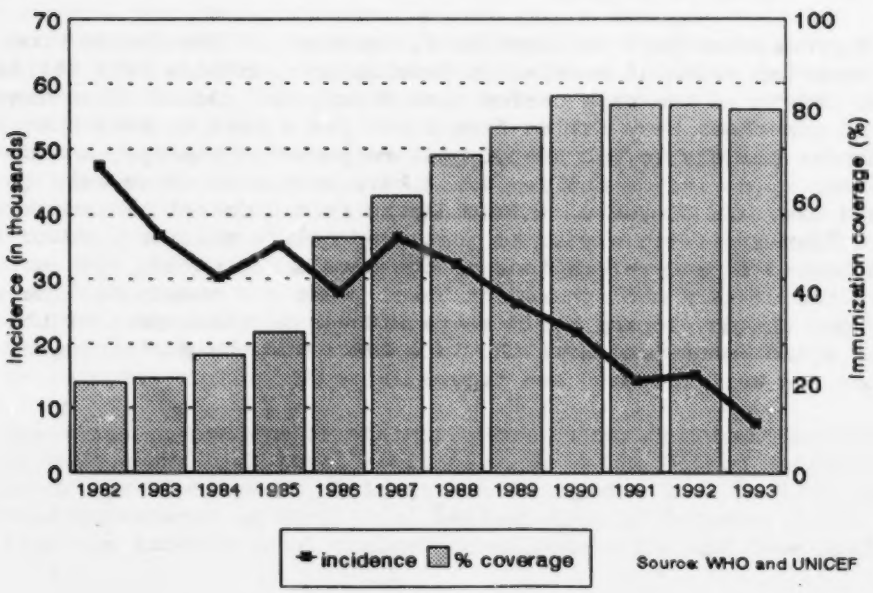


Figure 2: Polio in Developing Countries Reported incidence compared with immunization coverage, 1982 - 1993



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8. Progress is not limited to the area of child survival. The elimination of guinea worm disease (dracunculiasis) by the year 2000 is one of the goals of the Summit. From 5 to 10 million cases of guinea worm disease in the 1980s, prevalence dropped to an estimated half million cases in 1992 (see table 1).

Table 1. Reduction in cases of guinea worm disease in five countries

	Number of cases	
	Previous years	1993
Nigeria	653 000 (1988)	76 000
Ghana	180 000 (1989)	18 000
India	31 000 (1985)	800
Pakistan	1 100 (1988)	2
Cameroon	871 (1989)	72

Source: UNICEF, Progress of Nations, 1994.

9. At least three of the largest developing countries, China, Mexico and Indonesia, appear to be clearly on track towards the goal of effective achievement of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary-school-age children, and three others, India, Brazil and Egypt, are in a position to do the same if efforts are intensified. As part of an initiative to promote the great advantages of breast-feeding, 75 developing countries have acted to end the distribution of free and low-cost supplies of breast-milk substitutes to hospital and maternity facilities. Only one country where companies carry out this harmful practice has not taken such action. Over 1,000 hospitals spread throughout the developing world are now displaying the "baby-friendly" wall plaque, which means that they are following the 10 steps to successful breast-feeding being promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, while another 13,000 are in the process of qualifying for this status.

10. World leaders who signed the World Summit Declaration promised to work for early ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 1/ As of 20 July 1994, 163 countries had become States Parties, so that 95 per cent of the world's children are now covered by the Convention. Although children's rights continue to be violated in many places and in many ways, the legal groundwork for improving their situation is now solidly in place. National programmes of action for children have been finalized by 94 nations, providing 86 per cent of the children of the developing world, and 80 per cent of all children, with practical plans for achieving national targets by the year 2000 (see table 2).

Table 2. Status of completion of national programmes of action, by region, as of 20 July 1994

	Finalized	In draft	Preparation under way	No action reported	Total	Percentage of child population (under 16) covered	
						Completed NPAs	NPAs completed or in draft
Asia	18	6	3	6	33	98	99
Latin America and the Caribbean	21	3	7	2	33	64	97
Middle East and North Africa	14	5	1	1	21	85	99
Sub-Saharan Africa	26	11	5	4	46	59	84
Central and Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States	0	0	9	18	27	-	-
Industrialized countries	14	1	3	12	30	63	67
Total	93	26	28	43	190	80	90
						(of global child population)	

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11. The possibility of virtually eliminating by the end of 1995 the world's leading cause of mental retardation and impairment as well as of goitre, namely iodine deficiency disorders, is capturing the imagination of a diversity of important supporters, ranging from world leaders such as the King of Thailand, the Presidents of the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania, the German Chancellor and the top leadership of China, to civic organizations such as Kiwanis International. The Salt Institute, which represents all the major exporters of salt in the United States of America and Canada, has pledged that all salt for human consumption that is exported from these countries will be iodized. The European Salt Producers Association is preparing a plan of action to assure universal iodization in Europe. In Turkey, 11 salt producers, which produce 90 per cent of that country's salt, have signed a commitment to reach 100 per cent salt iodization and to report monthly to the Ministry of Health. Many Governments, including those of China and India, have already embarked on action to iodate all salt production and all salt imports and exports. All States members of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) have pledged to do the same. Bolivia and Ecuador, the two South American countries which had the worst iodine deficiency problems, are close to eliminating iodine deficiency disorders. Universal iodization of salt by the end of 1995 is now a distinct possibility.

12. Eighteen nations, including several of the world's largest, have introduced large-scale programmes to reduce vitamin A deficiency, a micronutrient disorder that can increase child deaths from common diseases by as much as 25 per cent. Guatemala and El Salvador are fortifying sugar, while the Philippines and Indonesia have fortified monosodium glutamate with vitamin A. In Mexico, 2.5 million doses were administered to children 6 months to 3 years old in 887 high-risk municipalities during National Health Week from 25 June to 1 July 1994. President Le Duc An launched the first vitamin A day in Viet Nam on 1 June 1994, targeting 10 million children under the age of 5. These days are to be held twice yearly to sustain the coverage achieved during the 1993 immunization and vitamin A day, which reached 93 per cent of the target population.

13. These signs of progress, as may be expected, are more visible in some countries and programme areas than in others. Despite the proven merits of oral rehydration therapy, over $1 billion is still being spent on anti-diarrhoeal remedies, most of which are useless or harmful. Progress towards neonatal tetanus elimination by 1995 needs to be greatly accelerated. Significant change in the situation as regards maternal mortality is still to be registered, although a consensus on low-cost approaches is rapidly evolving. Progress against pneumonia, now the leading killer of children, is still too slow. Nevertheless, the signs are encouraging enough to merit continued and sustained effort to hold the nations of the world to their commitment.

B. The mid-decade goals

14. In 1992, as a follow-up to the World Summit for Children, OAU organized the International Conference on Assistance to African Children at Dakar, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) organized the second Conference on South Asian Children at Colombo, and the League of Arab States

held the Conference on the Arab Child at Tunis. Each adopted a set of mid-decade goals for children which subsequently received summit-level endorsement by OAU, SAARC and the council of the League of Arab States. In February 1993, the Joint Committee on Health Policy of UNICEF and WHO adopted a set of mid-decade goals derived largely from those of OAU and SAARC. These were subsequently endorsed by the Executive Boards of UNICEF and WHO in May 1993. The same session of the UNICEF Executive Board also endorsed the year 1995 as a target date for every State in the world to have become party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as did the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna a month later. 2/ The Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation, held at Manila in September 1993, endorsed the mid-decade goals, and the Second Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas, attended by 17 ministers at Santa Fé de Bogotá in April 1994, did likewise. The Francophone Summit in Mauritius in October 1993, the Commonwealth Summit in Cyprus the same month, and the Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at Cairo in June 1994 have also called for achievement of the mid-decade goals. On the third anniversary of the World Summit for Children, in September 1993, a round table was held at the United Nations, in the presence of the Secretary-General, at which 7 heads of State or Government, along with special envoys and foreign ministers from another 17 countries, renewed their commitment to the decade goals and endorsed the targets for the mid-decade.

15. The mid-decade goals are as follows:

(a) Elevation of immunization coverage of the six antigens of the Expanded Programme on Immunization to 80 per cent or more in all countries;

(b) Virtual elimination of neonatal tetanus by 1995;

(c) Reduction by 95 per cent of measles deaths and reduction by 90 per cent of measles cases, compared to pre-immunization levels, by 1995 as a major step towards the global eradication of measles in the long run;

(d) Elimination of polio in selected countries and regions;

(e) Virtual elimination of vitamin A deficiency (at least 80 per cent of all children under 24 months of age in areas where vitamin A deficiency exists should receive adequate vitamin A);

(f) Universal iodization of salt in countries affected by iodine deficiency disorders;

(g) Achievement of 80 per cent usage of oral rehydration therapy and continued feeding as part of the programme to control diarrhoeal diseases;

(h) Ending and preventing free and low-cost supplies of breast-milk substitutes in all hospitals and maternity facilities; achievement by target hospitals and maternity facilities of "baby-friendly" status in accordance with the global criteria of the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative;

(i) Interruption of guinea worm disease (dracunculiasis) transmission in all affected villages by the end of 1995;

(j) Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by all countries by 1995;

(k) Reduction of 1990 levels of severe and moderate malnutrition by one fifth or more;

(l) Strengthening of basic education so as to achieve reduction by one third of the gap between the current primary school enrolment/retention rate and the year 2000 goal of universal access to basic education and achievement of primary education by at least 80 per cent of school-age children, and reduction of the 1990 gender gap in primary education by one third;

(m) Increasing water supply and sanitation so as to narrow the gap between 1990 levels and universal access by the year 2000 by one fourth in the case of water supply and one tenth in the case of sanitation.

16. Individual countries and regional groups have sometimes adopted other goals for the mid-decade as well, some of them more ambitious than those described above. Achievement of these mid-decade goals would assure that the momentum towards accomplishing the full set of decade goals is maintained. At the same time, it would avert the deaths of an additional 2 million children annually by 1996. During the coming year, therefore, progress towards these mid-decade goals will be the main yardstick for assessing the seriousness of the larger decade-long effort. Mid-1994 assessments indicate that with sustained efforts a majority of countries should achieve a majority of the mid-decade goals.

III. PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

A. Status of preparation

17. The Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children called upon all Governments to prepare national programmes of action to implement the commitments undertaken in the World Summit Declaration and the Plan of Action itself. The status of preparation of national programmes of action as of 20 July 1994 is presented in table 2.

18. The vast majority of developing countries have completed their national programmes of action. Except for some small island developing States, most of those that have not reported any action are countries affected by war, disaster or other extreme difficulties. The smallest proportion of completed or draft programmes of action is among the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, many of which were not represented separately at the Summit. Nevertheless, 15 of these 27 countries have signed the World Summit Declaration and 8 of them have recently begun the process of preparing national programmes of action. Six of the 12 industrialized countries for which no action has been reported have populations of less than 400,000 and 4 of these less than 30,000. Thus, some 80 per cent of the world's children are now covered by national programmes of action that have been finalized, and for developing countries the figure is 86 per cent.

19. High level reviews to assess progress in implementation of national programmes of action are becoming more common following the example of Mexico where President Salinas de Gortari has presided over six public national programme of action evaluation meetings. On 29 May 1994, China held a national conference on national programme of action implementation chaired by state councillor and chairwoman of the National Coordinating Committee for Children and Women, Madame Peng Peiyn, and attended by vice-governors responsible for social programmes from every province, autonomous region and municipality. Representatives of 24 of Brazil's 27 States met in March 1994 to review progress during the first 200 days of Brazil's Pact for Children. The Prime Ministers of India, Pakistan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Thailand, among others, have all pledged to review regularly progress towards the goals of their programmes of action.

20. A number of countries have revised, or are revising, their national programmes of action to bring them up to date with recent developments, improve one or other portion of the programme or to incorporate mid-decade goals. Among these are Bolivia, Burundi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Kenya, Malawi, United Republic of Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

B. Developments at subnational levels

21. Perhaps the most remarkable development since the previous updated report is the widespread effort to decentralize the national programme of action process to provincial and municipal levels. Action programmes at provincial and/or municipal levels are known to be under development in 50 countries and planned in an additional 26. Every province in China has signed a contract with the National Coordinating Committee for Children and Women to prepare its own programme of action. Every State in India has been directed to do likewise and 8 states have already drafted these documents. In Latin America, 16 out of 24 countries surveyed by UNICEF are carrying out some form of decentralization of the national programme of action process. In the 2 largest countries of Latin America, Brazil and Mexico, virtually all States are involved. Provincial governors in the Philippines have signed a Declaration of Commitment for Children in the Countryside, in which they pledge to implement provincial plans of action, mobilize resources for doing so and produce annual progress reports for the President. Additional data are provided in table 3.

Table 3. Selected indicators for 50 countries with decentralized national programmes of action

LEVEL OF DECENTRALIZATION	Provincial or State level only	15 countries
	Municipal level only	7 countries
	Both levels	28 countries
COVERAGE	Whole country	24 countries
	Selected areas	26 countries
INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION	Provincial/local government heads	17 countries
	Provincial/local government institutions	43 countries
	Other local institutions	34 countries
	National institutions	34 countries
	Non-governmental organizations	32 countries
	International organizations	16 countries

22. The Mayors' Initiative for Children, first launched in Italy, has now taken on global proportions. Mayors and municipal leaders from 45 countries of Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and Oceania, gathered at Mexico City in July 1993 at the second International Colloquium of Mayors, Defenders of Children, reiterated their commitment to achieving the goals established at the World Summit for Children and called upon their counterparts around the world to do likewise, adapting national programmes of action to municipal realities. The significance of support at municipal level is considerable since, in many countries, responsibility for health and education in urban areas is principally a municipal rather than a national responsibility.

23. This Colloquium has been followed by a number of regional activities, reported on below under each region, and follow-up action at the country level. In December 1993, the 60-member League of Cities of the Philippines signed a seven-point Declaration of Commitment to Children pledging to develop city plans of action for children within the framework of the national programme of action and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Progress reports are to be submitted every year beginning at the end of 1994. In the Dominican Republic, 21 mayors from that country's central region held their first Regional Meeting of Mayors as Defenders of Children, committing themselves to promote and strengthen local initiatives in favour of children and urging all city council members across the country to come together on initiatives directed towards the healthy development of children. At Estelí, Nicaragua, 32 mayors committed themselves to preparing municipal plans of action for children. The interior ministry of Thailand held a two-day meeting for all mayors as a follow-up to the meeting held at Mexico City. The Mayor of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, met for three days with the mayors of that country's 10 largest towns. Mayors of Santiago,

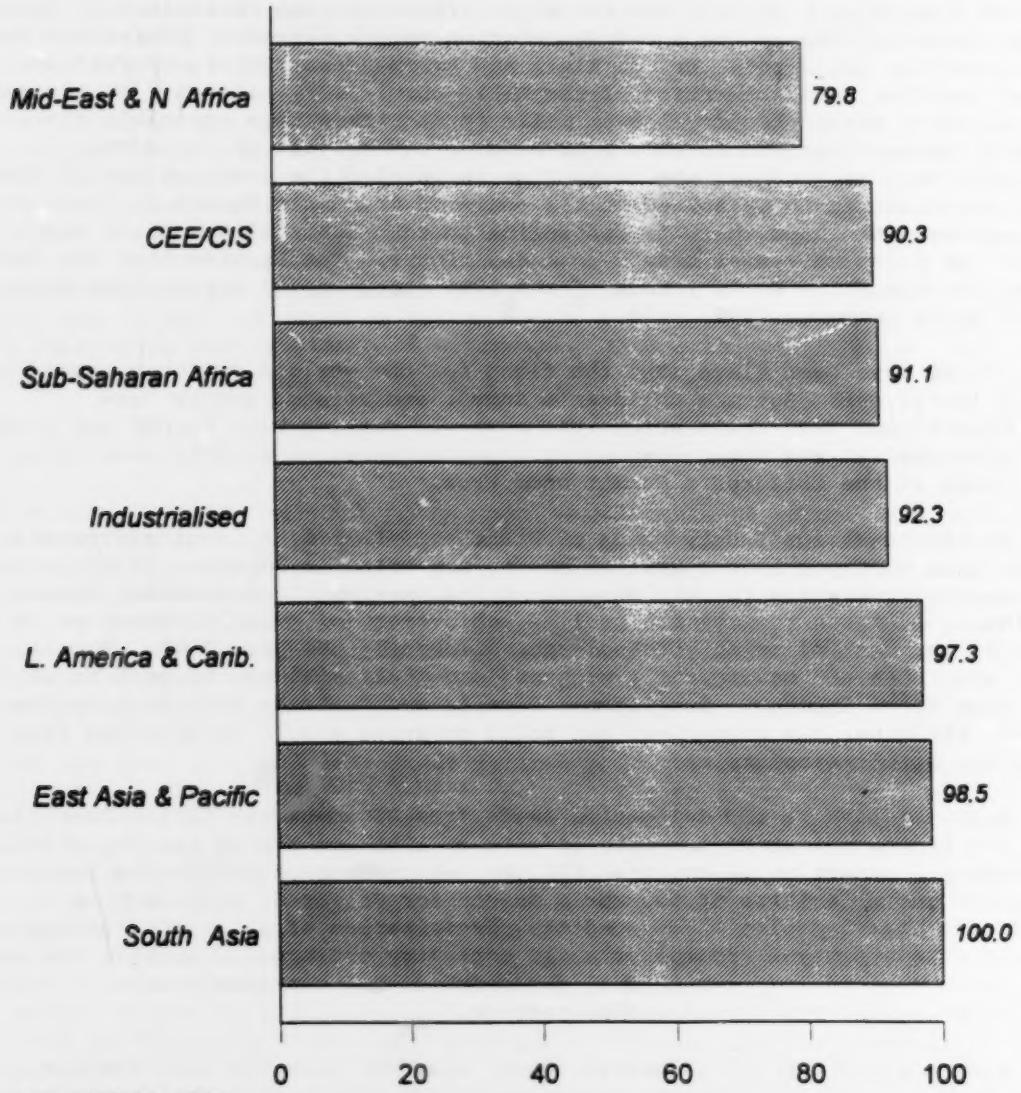
Chile, of Ibague, Colombia, and of Limbe, Cameroon, all held follow-up meetings. National meetings of mayors have also taken place in Argentina, Colombia, Guinea, Italy and Morocco.

IV. PROGRESS ON RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

24. The vast majority of countries whose leaders pledged in the World Summit Declaration to work for early ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child have honoured that pledge. As of 20 July 1994, some 163 countries had ratified the Convention and an additional 11 had signed it. This Convention now has the highest number of ratifications of any international convention in history. Ninety-five per cent of children in the world are now covered by the Convention. Figure 3 shows how this coverage is distributed by region. Since the goal of universal ratification by 1995 was proposed by the 1993 UNICEF Executive Board, and subsequently endorsed by the World Conference on Human Rights, the pace of ratification has accelerated further. The Committee on the Rights of the Child is fully and effectively operational. By 20 July 1994 it had received 41 country reports on implementation of the Convention and had reviewed 22 of them in an atmosphere of mutual concern for overcoming obstacles to the full enjoyment of their rights by all children.

Figure 3: Convention on the Rights of the Child:

Percentage of children covered by Ratification*



* As of 20 July 1994.

V. HIGH-LEVEL COMMITMENT TO KEEPING THE PROMISE OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

25. Children continue to have an increasingly prominent place at the top of the public agenda among world leaders. On the occasion of their receiving the Nobel prize for peace, then President F. W. de Klerk of South Africa dedicated his address "to the children of the world and to all those ... who are working to alleviate their plight", and Nelson Mandela, then President of the African National Congress, committed the new South Africa "to the relentless pursuit of the purposes defined in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children". Mr. de Klerk and Mr. Mandela shortly thereafter signed together the Declaration of the World Summit for Children. At the eighth International Vatican Conference on Children and the Future, probably the largest international conference ever held on the subject of children, Pope John Paul II accepted the invitation to involve the institutions of the Roman Catholic Church in achieving the goals of the World Summit for Children and expressed the hope that the Convention on the Rights of the Child might soon become the first universal treaty on human rights. The President of the United States, at the White House launch of the 1994 State of the World's Children report on 21 December 1993, said

> "There have been times when the fight for the world's children seemed to be a losing one. But the Children's Summit and related events have transformed that frustration into hope ... Working with UNICEF and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, we want to make those goals at the Children's Summit come true."

26. On the education front, heads of State and other high level representatives of the nine most populous countries met at New Delhi in December 1993 for the nine-country Education for All Summit. China, Mexico and Indonesia, appear to be clearly on track towards the goal of achievement of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary-school-age children by the year 2000. Brazil, Egypt and India are making rapid progress and could achieve the goal as well with some extra impetus. Bangladesh, Nigeria and Pakistan have much farther to go than the other six countries, but solid progress should be expected from at least two of these countries.

27. Health ministers and delegation heads from 38 countries of the Americas, Asia and Africa met at Mexico City in October 1993 and signed the "Initiative to accelerate a reduction in child mortality", which renewed their commitment to the goals and objectives of the World Summit for Children, endorsed the mid-decade health goals, encouraged the participation of all social groups and the media in programmes to reduce child mortality and urged that when donors forgive or reschedule international debt, debtor nations should make corresponding investments in social sectors.

28. Health ministers and bilateral donors also met with the Task Force for Child Survival and Development, sponsored by WHO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, UNICEF and the Rockefeller Foundation, at New Delhi in February 1994 to discuss the mid-decade goals and strategies for supporting sustainable health systems.

VI. INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

29. Rotary International continues its outstanding support to the goal of world-wide polio eradication and has initiated the creation of a polio eradication network to strengthen social mobilization and communication activities in support of the goal. In addition to continued efforts in the western hemisphere, Rotary International is supporting polio elimination in such diverse places as Cambodia, Kenya, Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Kiwanis International has recently committed itself to a major fund-raising effort in support of the virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders, with an initial rolling fund of $15 million. At the Junior Chamber International XLVIII World Congress in Hong Kong in November 1993, it was resolved to support the global goal of 80 per cent use of oral rehydration therapy by 1995, through communications and assistance in doubling global production capacity of oral rehydration salts from the current 500 million packets to one billion packets. In the Philippines, the Jaycees have signed an agreement with the Philippine Health Department and UNICEF to promote oral rehydration therapy for treatment of diarrhoea, using its 6,000 members throughout the country to organize classes for parents, conduct baseline surveys, set up oral rehydration salts depots and provide human resources to the Health Department during diarrhoea outbreaks. (See also part VIII, of the present report.)

VII. THE RESPONSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

30. The Administrator of UNDP has written to all resident representatives urging them to give importance to the goals of the World Summit for Children, including the mid-decade goals, as part of their responsibilities and efforts to promote sustainable human development, encouraging them to consider what can be done by the international community to support national action towards the achievement of the goals, monitor progress towards their achievement, use them as a focus for human development advocacy and support them as part of the preparatory action for the World Summit for Social Development.

31. WHO has been in the forefront of follow-up activities to the World Summit for Children as they affect the health sector. The forty-sixth World Health Assembly in May 1993 reiterated earlier resolutions inviting WHO member States to give the political and economic priority necessary to implement the commitments set out in the Declaration and Plan of Action. 3/ The forty-seventh World Health Assembly, in May 1994, focused on the World Summit goal of empowering all mothers to breast-feed by passing resolution WHA47.5, which affirms and expands on prior World Health Assembly resolutions urging Governments to end free and low-cost supplies of breast-milk substitutes and urges member States to initiate the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative. WHO and UNICEF are coordinating Summit follow-up activities at numerous secretariat levels, and also at the level of their governing bodies through the mechanism of the Joint Committee on Health Policy, which has discussed and approved the mid-decade goals. A joint letter from the Director-General of WHO and the Executive Director of UNICEF on the mid-decade goals was sent to all heads of State or Government at the beginning of 1994.

32. The development of measures for monitoring progress towards the decade goals is an important part of the follow-up process. WHO and UNICEF have agreed on a core set of indicators for all the health and nutrition goals. These indicators were circulated together with a joint statement on global monitoring of the health goals of the World Summit for Children on 9 November 1993. WHO will include these indicators in its periodic monitoring of progress towards health for all by the year 2000. UNDP and UNICEF are collaborating on the evaluation of aid flows taking place within the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

33. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), together with UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was involved in the initiative to focus on the nine largest developing countries, where the majority of the world's illiterate population live. This initiative was endorsed at the highest level of government at the Education for All Summit at New Delhi in December 1993. Cooperation between the governing bodies of UNICEF and UNESCO on Summit follow-up is institutionalized through the mechanism of the Joint Committee on Education.

34. Concern for children in conflict situations expressed in both the Declaration and the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children have been addressed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in joint UNHCR/UNICEF statements on the evacuation of refugee children, joint missions to address the rights of children who are unaccompanied or at risk of abandonment as a result of conflict, the inclusion of funds for education in joint emergency appeals and efforts to try to respond immediately to the psycho-social needs of children traumatized by conflict.

35. The long standing efforts of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to protect working children and abolish child labour have received added impetus with the establishment of the Interdepartmental Project on Elimination of Child Labour (INTERDEP) and the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). INTERDEP concentrates on promoting policies on the abolition of child labour and the protection of working children through regional and national seminars, awareness raising, and research on the nature and extent of the problem and possible approaches to alleviating it. Through IPEC, this work is translated into action projects at the local and national levels. In addition to the first six IPEC projects in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Thailand and Turkey, six new ones were initiated during the past year in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania. In these activities, ILO collaborates with other international organizations, particularly UNICEF and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

36. UNFPA also attaches considerable importance to the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit, which is complementary to and supportive of the Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations (A/C.2/44/6). The commitment of UNFPA to the goals of the World Summit will be again reinforced by the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development at Cairo in September 1994.

37. The World Bank's lending for education and health has grown substantially (by more than three-fold for education and twenty-fold for population, health and nutrition since the early 1980s) with an increasing shift within these sectors to primary health care and primary education. The Bank is involved in national programme of action implementation in the fields of health and nutrition in Argentina, Ecuador and Nepal; in water and sanitation in Bhutan and Madagascar, in control of iodine deficiency disorders in Madagascar and Malawi, in education in Belize and the Dominican Republic and in surveys and monitoring in Chad, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Nicaragua and Zambia. National programmes of action have been discussed at consultative group meetings of donors held under World Bank auspices, notably for Ghana and Zambia.

38. From the Executive Director to the furthest outposted member of its field staff, UNICEF has given top priority during the past year to supporting developing countries in their efforts to achieve the mid-decade goals as an integral step towards the achievement of the goals for the year 2000. Progress reviews have been held region by region and a trimestral reporting system has been established. At its 1994 annual session, UNICEF's Executive Board invited all countries to review their national programmes of action to ensure that the mid-decade goals are appropriately incorporated into their national planning processes and that sufficient priority and resources are devoted to their achievement. The Board also urged the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development to take into account the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children in its preparatory draft documents, and noted that the World Summit for Social Development provides an occasion for the nations of the world to report on the progress being made in keeping the promises made for children at the World Summit for Children, with special reference to progress being made towards the mid-decade goals.

VIII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

39. Non-governmental organizations have been involved in preparation and/or implementation of national programmes of action in some 80 countries around the world. The strong support of national programmes of action for universal ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child continues unabated. Sixty-six national coalitions have been established to provide alternative reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Inputs from non-governmental organizations have been received in all cases reviewed by the Committee so far. A major conference on "The Rights of the Child in Central America, Belize, Mexico and Panama" was sponsored by the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on UNICEF in November 1993, with financial support from the Netherlands.

40. The Education for All Network continues to build coalitions in support of the education goals, most recently in Central Europe, with a consultation for West and Central Africa scheduled for December 1994. The heads of four major international non-governmental organization, the Save the Children Federation, World Vision, Plan International and Christian Children's Fund reached an agreement with UNICEF in May 1994 on collaboration towards the education of the girl child.

41. Religious groups have been active in supporting World Summit follow-up activities. In May 1994, the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church agreed to promote immunization and oral rehydration therapy among the church's 25 million followers, establishing a task force to formulate a two-year plan of action to follow-up on this commitment. A major "keep the promise to children" meeting of more than 100 leaders of 8 religions and indigenous traditions from 14 countries of Asia and the Pacific took place at Melbourne, Australia, in September 1993. Participants issued a statement and action plan urging spiritual and religious people and institutions to work towards the World Summit for Children goals and universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, drawing on the ethical traditions and teachings of their respective faiths.

42. The World Alliance of Breast-feeding Action, a coalition of non-governmental organizations, has continued its very active support to breast-feeding and the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative. Its members, such as La Leche League International, the International Baby Food Action Network and Wellstart, continue training of health professionals in lactation management, advocating the adoption of the International Code of Marketing on Breast-milk Substitutes at the national level, organizing mother support groups for breast-feeding, and raising public awareness of the benefits of breast-feeding.

43. The International Olympic Committee reached an agreement with UNICEF in January 1994 to support actions to revive the ancient Greek tradition of the "Olympic truce", calling for the cessation of all wars during the forthcoming games and encouraging athletes to become spokespersons for peace and health initiatives.

IX. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Sub-Saharan Africa

44. In June 1994 the Council of Ministers of OAU, meeting at Tunis, reiterated its support for the Consensus of Dakar (A/C.2/47/13, annex). The Dakar Consensus was drawn up when delegations of some 44 Governments, most of them led at the ministerial level, met at the OAU International Conference on Assistance to African Children at Dakar in November 1992. In that document, the Governments, together with donor partners from 18 industrialized countries and representatives of international financial institutions, the United Nations and regional organizations and international and African non-governmental organizations, reaffirmed the need to translate the commitments of the World Summit for Children into concrete programmes of action that can be implemented.

45. Specifically, the African countries attending the Dakar Conference committed themselves (a) to develop and implement national programmes of action and to incorporate them into their bilateral and multilateral consultative processes and development programmes; (b) to undertake new efforts to resolve and prevent conflicts in Africa and to apply universally the principles of "corridors of peace" and "days of tranquillity"; (c) to restructure government budgets to support the key goals of their national programmes of action and shift resources away from non-productive uses, such as military/internal

security expenditures and subsidies for inefficient state organizations; and (d) to support an increase in domestic resource mobilization through such actions as national tax reform and the encouragement of community actions and contributions. The African countries also committed themselves to reaching a set of intermediate goals by 1995.

46. Donor and international financial institutions present at the Dakar Conference also committed themselves to providing resources to support national programmes of action and to increasing and sustaining the share of official development assistance (ODA) commitment to social priority sectors by 1995 in line with increasing commitments by African countries ... bearing in mind the level of 20 per cent of ODA for these sectors recommended in the Human Development Report 1992 4/ of the United Nations Development Programme. Donor partners and international financial institutions also committed themselves to making every effort to promote debt cancellation or relief for African countries. A continental follow-up mechanism involving the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and UNICEF was established under the auspices of OAU to monitor the overall formulation and implementation of national programmes of action and submit progress reports to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government (see A/48/322, annex I, CM/Res.1464 (LVIII)).

47. Mayors of 13 West African capitals met at Freetown in December 1993 to adopt the "Freetown declaration" calling on political leaders to support and encourage municipalities in implementation of World Summit for Children goals.

B. Asia

48. In April 1993 at Dhaka the seventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of SAARC endorsed the Colombo Resolution (A/C.3/47/10, annex) strongly linking it with a collective commitment to eradicate poverty over the next 10 years. The Colombo Resolution was the product of the second SAARC Conference on South Asian Children held at Colombo in September 1992, where ministers and other senior officials recommended a set of intermediate targets aimed at catalysing and accelerating progress towards the goals for the decade. These include access to, and enrolment in, primary education for at least 80 per cent of boys and 75 per cent of girls, and completion of primary education by at least 50 per cent of girls and boys by 1995; universal use of oral rehydration therapy for home-based treatment of diarrhoea and universal access to oral rehydration salts by 1996; progressive reduction of gender disparity in all the goal-related indicators; and raising the minimum age of marriage for girls to at least 18 years.

49. At the September 1993 Regional Ministerial Consultation at Manila, 17 countries signed the "Manila consensus", in which they reaffirmed their commitment to pursue vigorously the goals of their respective national programmes of action and to adopt policies, programmes and relevant strategies that will achieve the mid-decade goals by the end of 1995. They also urged Member States to use the occasion of the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 to provide information on the progress being made in achieving the mid-decade goals.

C. Middle East and North Africa

50. Arab health ministers, meeting at Cairo, in March 1994, reaffirmed their commitment to the Pan-Arab Plan for Child Survival, Protection and Development, adopted by the League of Arab States at a high-level meeting at Tunis in November 1992. That plan set targets for the year 1995 which include eradication of polio, 95 per cent reduction of measles deaths in the region, elimination of neonatal tetanus, 80 per cent usage of oral rehydration therapy, universal salt iodization, halting free distribution of breast-milk substitutes and designation of all major hospitals as "baby-friendly". The meeting called for effective monitoring systems in every Arab State and established a permanent committee for follow-up to the implementation of the plan.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

51. High-level officials, including 17 ministers, representing 28 western hemisphere countries, meeting at Santa Fé de Bogotá in April 1994, issued the "Nariño accord" renewing the commitment of their countries to achieving the mid-decade and end-of-decade goals for children. This second Hemispheric Meeting on Children and Social Policy reviewed the objectives of the World Summit for Children within the framework of human development, poverty reduction, decentralization and the family. It was resolved to hold annual meetings of the organizations and authorities responsible for national programmes of action in the region. This accord was subsequently endorsed by the fourth Ibero-American Summit at Cartagena, Colombia, in June 1994.

52. The Inter-American Development Bank has made a major policy decision to increase lending in the social sectors to 50 per cent of all projects and 40 per cent of total loan value.

53. The Latin America and Caribbean region has taken the lead in efforts to decentralize the national programme of action process to provincial and municipal levels. Following the International Colloquium of Mayors in July 1993 at Mexico City, the follow-up Latin American and Caribbean Mayors Coordinating Group met in November 1993 at Quito setting the pace for the new participation of local governments in the achievement of the national programme of action goals. Noteworthy initiatives include the establishment of a Code for Mayors as Defenders of Children and the Certification of Public Works for Children.

54. Technical meetings on Summit follow-up have involved numerous regional institutions. An inter-agency committee consisting of representatives of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), WHO, UNFPA, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United States Agency for International Development has been meeting regularly to review progress towards the decade goals in the health sector and to agree on strategies for achieving them.

E. Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

55. Following the April 1993 Central and Eastern European seminar on "Strategies for children during the transition", held at Budapest, at which participants pledged to work for early national programme of action finalization and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, preparation of a programme of action is under way in Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Ukraine.

56. In September 1993 at the United Nations, the heads of State and/or Government of the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as Tajikistan, signed the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children. Subsequently, a regional seminar for the Baltic republics on developing national programmes of action was held at Riga from 27 to 29 September. In a final statement, the officials and experts called on the presidents of the Baltic States to lead in developing national programmes of action for the comprehensive and appropriate development of children and strengthening of the family.

57. In January 1994 at Tehran, health ministers and, subsequently, foreign ministers of the 10-country Economic Cooperation Organization (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) endorsed early action on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and established four working sessions during 1994 to address achievement of the mid-decade goals. In July 1994, delegations led by deputy prime ministers for the four Central Asian Republics of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan met at Beijing to discuss the social aspects of transition and structural adjustment and reaffirmed the support of their countries for the mid-decade and end-decade goals of the World Summit for Children.

F. Industrialized countries

58. The Mayors' Initiative, mentioned in paragraph 16 above, has not been limited to developing countries. Italian mayors have been involved from the beginning. Spanish mayors also held their first meeting at Pamplona in October 1993 to manifest their concerns for children. Paris is hosting the next gathering of mayors on 8-9 December 1994, and the mayor of Washington, D.C., is actively involved in the initiative.

59. Australia launched its national programme of action in April 1994. The programme was also reflected in the country's 1994/1995 budget which contains new programmes for payments to working parents for child care costs and payments to parents who have withdrawn from the labour market to care for their children. Funding is also provided for the first national strategy to prevent child abuse and a new national initiative on childhood immunization. The budget for overseas aid includes a new initiative to eradicate polio and neonatal tetanus in countries assisted by Australian development cooperation.

X. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

60. The reallocation of government budgets to increase the proportion devoted to the goals of a country's national programme of action is often crucial to the achievement of those goals. Bhutan's national programme of action projects increases from 8.3 to 11.2 per cent of the budget for education and from 4.3 to 6.7 per cent for health during the period 1991-1997. Chile has earmarked $700 million, in addition to its current annual social sector budget of $6 billion, for financing its programme of action during the period 1993-2000. Senegal plans to increase the share of its expenditure for health sectors from the current 4.8 per cent to 9 per cent by the year 2000. Egypt's programme of action is assigned 7.5 per cent of the budget in the 1992-1997 development plan. Viet Nam approved major budgetary increases for health and education for fiscal year 1994/1995. Reductions in expenditure on armaments are specifically mentioned in the programmes of action of Namibia and Zimbabwe. Mexico's social expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) has grown from 6.1 per cent in 1989 to 9.7 per cent in 1993. This upward trend, though preceded by a steep decline during the 1980s, has been explicitly linked with the national programme of action process. Mexico is perhaps the only country reporting specifically child-related expenditure as a percentage of GDP, which has risen from 3.1 per cent in 1989 to 4.4 per cent in 1993. Other countries reporting budgetary restructuring and increased social sector expenditure include the Gambia, Peru, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Uruguay.

61. While developing countries are making major commitments and achieving substantial results, the donor community, with some notable exceptions, needs to do more to demonstrate the collective resolve to provide the modest level of resources required to sustain their part of the effort. The World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank have made major shifts towards the social sectors, especially health and education, in their lending policies, as already reported above. Donor support for emergencies has increased, but official development assistance as a whole is stagnating. Increased demand for international financing in the Commonwealth of Independent States, for emergency assistance and for peace-keeping is reducing the financing available for Africa, Asia and Latin America. The key issue for the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children will be the extent to which industrialized countries honour their World Summit commitments to support developing countries in the achievement of these goals.

62. One promising avenue for financing the achievement of national programmes of action in the short run is through the application of the 20/20 concept. This UNICEF and UNDP initiative, building on ideas first presented in 1991 and 1992 in the Human Development Report of UNDP and grounded in cost estimates for the achievement of the World Summit for Children goals, is aimed at assuring that developing countries devote at least 20 per cent of government expenditure to basic human needs (primary health care, including family planning, nutrition, basic education, and low-cost water and sanitation) and that donor countries should devote at least 20 per cent of ODA to these same priority areas. Prime Minister Brundtland of Norway, in her Rafael M. Salas Lecture at the United Nations on 28 September 1993, called the allocation of 20 per cent of government expenditure and 20 per cent of development aid to priority human concerns a minimum requirement. This concept of 20/20 was formally endorsed in 1992 by the

OAU International Conference on Assistance to African Children, by the 1993 Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation on Goals for Children in the 1990s and by the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement at Cairo in June 1994. While this concept is being discussed in various international forums, its application to both bilateral and multilateral cooperation need not await prolonged technical discussions. The World Summit for Children's Plan of Action called upon each country to reexamine its current national budget, and in the case of donor countries, their development assistance budgets, to ensure that programmes aimed at the achievement of the goals for the survival, protection and development of children will have a priority when resources are allocated.

XI. THE FORTHCOMING MID-DECADE REVIEW

63. Paragraph 35 (iv) of the World Summit Plan of Action requested the Secretary-General to arrange for a mid-decade review, at all appropriate levels, of the progress being made towards implementation of the commitments of the Declaration and Plan of Action.

64. The World Summit for Social Development in April 1995 offers an opportunity for countries to assess progress for children, especially on the mid-decade goals, on the basis of data available at that time. The Summit can be instrumental in preparing for the review of the situation at mid-decade.

65. The sixth Anniversary of the World Summit for Children on 30 September 1996 would appear to be an appropriate moment to announce the status of progress for children at mid-decade (the end of 1995) and for a more complete assessment of achievements as regards the mid-decade goals. The timing is such that it should give countries and regions the opportunity to hold their own assessments of these results and for the international community to register 1995 data. The review's form and choice of participants requires discussion involving the relevant United Nations bodies and partners, both public and private. Such a review could also be a launching pad for the second phase of the world-wide effort towards achievement of the full set of goals for the year 2000.

66. Industrialized countries should participate in the mid-decade review along with the rest of the international community. A particular issue in this respect is the unavailability of recent data from many industrialized countries on some indicators such as, for example, immunization, breast-feeding, vitamin A and early child development. There is also a need for a few of the indicators agreed upon by WHO, UNICEF and other organizations for measuring progress towards the goals to be refined to take into account the realities of industrialized countries.

67. In paragraph 35 (v) of the World Summit Plan of Action, the governing bodies of the relevant specialized agencies and United Nations organs were requested to include a periodic review of the implementation of the Declaration and the Plan of Action at their regular sessions and to keep the General Assembly of the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council, fully informed of progress to date and additional action required during the decade

ahead. It would be appropriate for heads of agencies to be reminded of this request in time for them to take the necessary action.

XII. THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

68. The main challenge ahead is, of course, the achievement of the goals and objectives of the World Summit for Children. In order to do this, however, several other challenges must be dealt with:

(a) Achievement of the mid-decade goals as a set of milestones to be passed on the road towards those for the decade;

(b) The mobilization of adequate resources for implementation of national programmes of action and the Convention, by developing countries through systematic review and appropriate reallocation of national budgets, and by donors through a higher proportion of ODA for basic human needs;

(c) The reinforcement of systems for monitoring progress towards the goals, with capacity for wide public review of progress and shortfalls;

(d) Sustaining the momentum for "keeping the promise" of the Summit and the Convention, internationally and nationally, through advocacy and social mobilization.

69. At a deeper level, there is need for increased recognition that the achievement of the decade's goals for children would contribute to and help catalyze the realization of so many other goals to which the human community aspires, such as slowing population growth rates, accelerating economic growth, improving the environment and overcoming the worst aspects of poverty.

Notes

1/ General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, annex.

2/ See Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24, parts I and II).

3/ World Health Assembly resolutions WHA46.17 and 46.18.

4/ United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report, 1992 (New York, Oxford University Press, 1992).

ANNEX I

STATUS OF SIGNATURES ON THE DECLARATION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN AS OF 20 JULY 1994

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SIGNED THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN DECLARATION (150)				NOT SIGNED (31)
Afghanistan	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)	Mexico	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Andorra
Albania	Finland	Monaco	Togo	Angola
Algeria	France	Mongolia	Trinidad and Tobago	Azerbaijan
Antigua and Barbuda	Fiji	Morocco	Tunisia	Bahamas
Argentina	Gabon	Mozambique	Turkey	Bahrain
Armenia	Gambia	Namibia	Turkmenistan	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Australia	Germany	Nepal	Uganda	Brunei Darussalam
Austria	Ghana	Netherlands	Ukraine	Croatia
Bangladesh	Greece	New Zealand	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Cyprus
Barbados	Grenada	Nicaragua	United Republic of Tanzania	Czech Republic
Belarus	Guatemala	Niger	United States of America	Iraq
Belgium	Guinea	Nigeria	Uruguay	Kyrgyzstan
Belize	Guinea-Bissau	Norway	Vanuatu	Kiribati
Benin	Guyana	Pakistan	Venezuela	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Bhutan	Haiti	Panama	Viet Nam	Malta
Bolivia	Holy See	Papua New Guinea	Yemen	Micronesia
Botswana	Honduras	Paraguay	Zaire	Myanmar
Brazil	Hungary	Peru	Zambia	Nauru
Bulgaria	Iceland	Philippines	Zimbabwe	Oman
Burkina Faso	India	Poland		Republic of Moldova
Burundi	Indonesia	Portugal		San Marino
Cameroon	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Qatar		Saudi Arabia
Cambodia	Ireland	Republic of Korea		Seychelles
Canada	Israel	Republic of Georgia		Singapore
Cape Verde	Italy	Romania		Slovenia
Central African Republic	Jamaica	Russian Federation		Slovak Republic
Chad	Japan	Rwanda		Somalia
Chile	Jordan	Sao Tome and and Principe		Tonga
China	Kazakhstan	Saint Kitts and Nevis		Tuvalu
Colombia	Kenya	Saint Lucia		United Arab Emirates
Comoros	Kuwait	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		Uzbekistan
Congo	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Samoa		
Costa Rica	Latvia	Senegal		
Cote d'Ivoire	Lebanon	Sierra Leone		
Cuba	Lesotho	Solomon Islands		
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Liberia	South Africa		
Denmark	Liechtenstein	Spain		
Djibouti	Lithuania	Sri Lanka		
Dominica	Luxembourg	Sudan		
Dominican Republic	Madagascar	Suriname		
Ecuador	Malawi	Swaziland		
Egypt	Malaysia	Sweden		
El Salvador	Maldives	Switzerland		
Equatorial Guinea	Mali	Syrian Arab Republic		
Eritrea	Marshall Islands	Tajikistan		
Estonia	Mauritania	Thailand		
Ethiopia	Mauritius			

ANNEX II

STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AS OF 20 JULY 1994

STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION BY RATIFICATION, ACCESSION OR SUCCESSION (163)			STATES THAT HAVE SIGNED BUT NOT YET RATIFIED (11)	STATES THAT ARE NEITHER STATE PARTIES NOR HAVE SIGNED (16)
Afghanistan	Finland	Norway	Eritrea	Andorra
Albania	France	Pakistan	Haiti	Botswana
Algeria	Gabon	Panama	Kazakhstan	Brunei Darussalam
Angola	Gambia	Papua New Guinea	Liechtenstein	Kyrgyzstan
Antigua and Barbuda	Germany	Paraguay	Netherlands	Kiribati
Argentina	Ghana	Peru	Qatar	Malaysia
Armenia	Greece	Philippines	Samoa	Nauru
Australia	Grenada	Poland	South Africa	Oman
Austria	Guatemala	Portugal	Swaziland	Saudi Arabia
Azerbaijan	Guinea	Republic of Georgia	Switzerland	Singapore
Bahamas	Guinea-Bissau	Republic of Korea	Turkey	Solomon Islands
Bahrain	Guyana	Republic of Moldova		Somalia
Bangladesh	Holy See	Romania		Tonga
Barbados	Honduras	Russian Federation		Tuvalu
Belarus	Hungary	Rwanda		United Arab Emirates
Belgium	Iceland	Saint Kitts and Nevis		United States of America
Belize	India	Saint Lucia		
Benin	Indonesia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		
Bhutan	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	San Marino		
Bolivia	Iraq	Sao Tome and and Principe		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ireland	Senegal		
Brazil	Israel	Seychelles		
Bulgaria	Italy	Sierra Leone		
Burkina Faso	Jamaica	Slovenia		
Burundi	Japan	Slovak Republic		
Cambodia	Jordan	Spain		
Cameroon	Kenya	Sri Lanka		
Canada	Kuwait	Sudan		
Cape Verde	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Suriname		
Central African Republic	Latvia	Sweden		
Chad	Lebanon	Syrian Arab Republic		
Chile	Lesotho	Tajikistan		
China	Liberia	Thailand		
Colombia	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		
Comoros	Lithuania	Togo		
Congo	Luxembourg	Trinidad and Tobago		
Costa Rica	Madagascar	Tunisia		
Cote d'Ivoire	Malawi	Turkmenistan		
Croatia	Maldives	Uganda		
Cuba	Mali	Ukraine		
Cyprus	Malta	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		
Czech Republic	Marshall Islands	United Republic of Tanzania		
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mauritania	Uruguay		
Denmark	Mauritius	Uzbekistan		
Djibouti	Mexico	Vanuatu		
Dominica	Micronesia	Venezuela		
Dominican Republic	Monaco	Viet Nam		
Ecuador	Mongolia	Yemen		
Egypt	Morocco	Zaire		
El Salvador	Mozambique	Zambia		
Equatorial Guinea	Myanmar	Zimbabwe		
Estonia	Namibia			
Ethiopia	Nepal			
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)	New Zealand			
Fiji	Nicaragua			
	Niger			
	Nigeria			

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NATIONS

A

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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/108 on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, at its forty-ninth session, on measures taken to implement that resolution. The present report contains information on the status of preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace of which the Secretariat has been apprised, at the national, regional and international levels as well as at the level of non-governmental organizations. The report mainly covers the period from January to August 1994; it updates the report on preparations for the Conference that was submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session (E/CN.6/1994/9 and Corr.1).

I. CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS

A. Conference secretariat

2. The Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, as the core secretariat for the Fourth World Conference on Women (hereinafter referred to as the Conference secretariat), was further reinforced as of 1 March 1994 by the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference to support the Secretary-General of the Conference in all aspects of Conference preparations, in particular with regard to the financial and administrative dimensions pertaining to Conference preparations and the Division for the Advancement of Women.

3. A number of additional staff members, funded from extrabudgetary resources or seconded to the Conference secretariat from other parts of the United Nations system, are currently working in the Conference secretariat, thus strengthening the resources available within the Division in several strategic areas, including regional outreach and liaison, information and communication, and non-governmental organizations activities. As necessary, short-term consultants, research associates and interns have assisted and continue to assist in the implementation of specific tasks, including the preparation of background material for publications such as the forthcoming updates of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 1/ and the World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics, 2/ as well as for the draft Platform for Action that is to emanate from the Conference.

4. Organizational arrangements and staff work assignments have been consolidated to provide for full and effective use of resources, staff qualifications and experience to prepare for the Conference and achieve its objectives.

5. As part of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Conference secretariat participates in efforts to ensure that gender is appropriately reflected throughout the work of the Department,

including the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, the secretariat of which is also located in the Department.

6. The Conference secretariat continues to cooperate closely with the secretariats of the International Conference on Population and Development and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

7. The Eighteenth Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women (see ACC/1994/8), for which the Conference secretariat served as secretariat, was held on 3 and 4 March 1994 at United Nations Headquarters, immediately preceding the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (see E/1994/27). A total of 32 organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system participated in the Meeting. The main work of the Meeting centred on the preparations for the Conference, including discussions of the preparatory process at the national, regional and global levels, the draft Platform for Action, and the second review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Particular emphasis was placed on the need, in preparing for the Conference, to initiate a process that would continue to be sustainable when the Conference was over. Institutional arrangements and financial resources for the follow-up and implementation of the Platform for Action after its adoption were therefore highlighted as critical matters. A joint statement on the Platform for Action was prepared for delivery to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session. A proposal was put forward to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to regularize the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women after the Conference in order to facilitate system-wide coordination of the follow-up to the Conference. It was also proposed that a gender perspective be included in United Nations efforts to formulate an agenda for development. The preparations and inputs by agencies to the reports for the three priority themes for the Commission on the Status of Women (1995) and the forthcoming update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 1/ were discussed. The meeting was briefed on preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

8. The informal ad hoc inter-agency advisory committee on the Conference, which was set up at Headquarters to advise on the preparations for the Conference and to ensure effective coordination, has continued to meet. Discussions have included updates on the relevant activities of the various organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including support for preparatory activities at the national level.

9. The Secretary-General of the Conference has undertaken further official visits to assess the status of and to encourage preparations for the Conference at the national and regional levels. Her visits have provided an opportunity to evaluate issues of concern to women and to stress the importance of identifying strategic action through a participatory process in areas of critical concern to women, as reflected in the outline of the draft Platform for Action put forward by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session.

10. Since January 1994, official visits have been made to the following countries: the United Republic of Tanzania, Kuwait, Namibia, Zambia, Kenya, Senegal, China, Argentina, Brazil, Netherlands Antilles, Cuba and Barbados. The

Secretary-General of the Conference has also participated in several major meetings, at which she provided briefings on the Conference and its preparations and highlighted the strategic dimensions of a gender perspective in specific areas. Among others, she addressed the following meetings:

(a) The fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights, focusing on women's human rights and the appointment of a special rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (Geneva);

(b) The International Steering Committee on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women (Brussels);

(c) The National Conference on Environment and Development, convened by the Evert Vermeer Foundation (The Hague);

(d) The Global Commission on Women's Health (Geneva);

(e) The regional forum on the theme "Women in the Americas: participation and development", sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank (Guadalajara, Mexico);

(f) The North-South Round Table (Mexico City);

(g) The International Conference on the theme "Towards the enhancement of women's legal rights" (Kuwait);

(h) The meeting of the European Union held in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Toledo, Spain);

(i) The Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (Jakarta);

(j) The Caribbean Subregional Meeting held by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) preparatory to the Fourth World Conference on Women (Curacao, Netherlands Antilles).

11. The Secretary-General of the Conference has continued to seek additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Conference preparations, including national- and regional-level activities, and for the participation of least developed countries in the Conference and its preparatory meetings, as requested in General Assembly resolution A/48/108 (para. 26). She has appealed to donors to either contribute additional funds for that purpose or assist recipient countries on a bilateral basis. The participation of the largest possible number of governmental representatives at the regional preparatory conferences and the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women is considered to be of paramount importance.

12. The Secretary-General of the Conference has endeavoured to support the convening of the regional preparatory conferences, as requested in General Assembly resolution A/48/108: she has held consultations on the financial and other arrangements for those events to ensure their effectiveness.

13. The facilitation initiative of the Expert Group on Women in Development - a subsidiary body of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) - is coordinating OECD members' support to developing countries in their preparations for the Conference so as to ensure an equitable spread and optimal use of scarce human and financial resources. In conjunction with the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in March 1994, a joint meeting of the Women in Development (WID) coordinators of multilateral organizations and members of the OECD/DAC Expert Group on Women in Development was held. The aim was to further strengthen cooperation and coordination, especially at the national and regional levels, as well as to identify the best use for available resources. The presence and participation of representatives of the regional commissions and of DAC/WID regional focal points proved to be particularly useful.

14. The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (A/49/349) contains an assessment of recent developments that are relevant to the priority themes to be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session and will be developed through the convening of expert groups and seminars. The results of those deliberations will be incorporated into the Conference preparations, as appropriate.

15. Furthermore, the Conference secretariat has participated in and contributed to a number of meetings considered to be of relevance for drafting documentation requested by the intergovernmental bodies in the preparatory process, including the following:

(a) The Ninety-first Inter-Parliamentary Conference, which adopted a plan of action to correct present imbalances in the participation of men and women in political life;

(b) An Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) workshop on capacity-building for the advancement of women;

(c) An ECE consultation of governmental experts on the expected outcome of the high-level regional preparatory meeting for Europe;

(d) The second General Assembly of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE);

(e) An expert group on women and global economic restructuring convened by the North-South Institute.

16. The Conference secretariat is planning or will participate in the following selected number of events, which are of direct relevance to overall Conference preparations or to the preparation of Conference documentation:

(a) A round table on women and poverty with the German Development Foundation;

(b) An expert group on gender and education and training (priority theme);

(c) An expert group on women in economic decision-making (priority theme);

(d) An expert group on gender and international decision-making (priority theme).

17. As a complementary action, the World Health Organization (WHO) is planning a round table on women and reproductive health in collaboration with the Conference secretariat.

18. The Conference secretariat closely monitors preparations for the regional preparatory meetings. It must and will continue to lend support to the convening of such meetings and will participate in them, as appropriate. The results of the regional preparatory meetings are being taken into account by the Conference secretariat in the further development of the draft Platform for Action, in accordance with resolution 38/10 of the Commission on the Status on Women.

19. In accordance with the same resolution, the Secretary-General convened, after discussions with the Bureau, an informal open-ended consultation to exchange views on the draft Platform for Action during the consideration of the item on the advancement of women at the substantive session of 1994 of the Economic and Social Council. A briefing note was prepared by the secretariat informing Member States about its work to further develop the draft Platform for Action for presentation to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session, which is being undertaken in conjunction with the preparation of other Conference documentation.

20. The consultation took place on 18 July 1994. In addition to the briefing note, the Secretary-General of the Conference gave an oral progress report on the activities of the Conference secretariat. During the consultation, a large number of delegations made comments and further clarifications were provided by the Secretary-General of the Conference on the issues raised. The exchange of views addressed, inter alia, the question of participation in Conference preparations at all levels, the sources and modalities of input into the process of documents preparation, and the development of various sections of the draft Platform for Action. The content and timing of an open-ended informal consultation to be held in conjunction with the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly was also discussed.

21. The Secretary-General of the United Nations convened an Advisory Group of Eminent Persons, which met in May 1994, to provide advice on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

22. The Conference secretariat has developed a strategy to ensure the involvement of young people in the Conference and its preparatory process. The strategy aims to bring together young people at regional and international levels with the objective of capturing the voices of youth in a way that will not only influence Conference deliberations but will also have a sustainable impact. As part of the strategy, a youth consultative group meeting was convened from 1 to 5 February 1994 in Princeton, United States of America, and a regional youth workshop was organized in conjunction with the Second Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Jakarta. Similar workshops are planned in

conjunction with the other regional preparatory meetings. The Conference secretariat is also collaborating with various United Nations agencies and with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat to involve young people in Conference preparations.

23. At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on the Status of Women accredited for participation in the Conference 102 non-governmental organizations that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or on its roster. Since then, the Conference secretariat has received well over 500 additional requests for accreditation, which are being preliminarily evaluated by the secretariat, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/108, for submission for accreditation to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session.

24. The application form for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to participate in the Conference, which was developed by the secretariat, has been widely distributed among non-governmental organizations in all regions. In addition, a note verbale of 23 May 1994 was sent to all Member States and observers inviting them to alert relevant non-governmental organizations.

25. The Conference secretariat continues to receive a large number of requests from non-governmental organizations for information about the Conference and its preparatory process, as well as the participation of non-governmental organizations. The secretariat also provides information about the participation of non-governmental organizations in regional preparatory conferences, as appropriate.

26. A representative of the Conference secretariat participated in the planning mission to Beijing of the Non-Governmental Organizations Planning Committee for the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum.

B. Information and communication

27. The Conference secretariat is issuing on a regular basis a newsletter entitled Women on the Move, which provides updated information on Conference preparations. The newsletter is widely distributed to national committees, United Nations field offices, non-governmental organizations, Member States and the media; it is also distributed electronically through TogetherNet and the APC network. Published in the six official languages of the United Nations, it also contains a regularly updated calendar of events of which the secretariat has been apprised.

28. With the assistance of a Member State, two consultants have reviewed and assessed the documentation and electronic networking needs of the Conference secretariat. The recommendations of the consultants will serve as the basis for the Conference secretariat to pursue any necessary improvements so as to take full advantage of existing research and technology in the preparations for the Conference.

29. The Department of Public Information has developed an information strategy for the Conference and has begun to implement a series of activities as well as to produce a number of related print and audiovisual products to promote the Conference. The Department has also organized and is continually updating and distributing an extensive schedule of all United Nations system products and events related to the Conference.

30. Print and audiovisual products being issued by the Department include a Conference backgrounder; a pre-Conference brochure; a student leaflet; a Conference poster; and periodic press releases, fact sheets, and feature articles on the Conference. The Department will also produce a special edition of Notes for Speakers on women for the Conference. The latter products have been issued in the appropriate languages and distributed both throughout the United Nations system and externally through the United Nations Information System and United Nations information centres, as well as to media organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals.

31. Audiovisual products of the Department that focus on Conference issues include special editions of United Nations in Action and World Chronicle; weekly radio programmes; and a public service announcement campaign being developed for the Conference. The Department is also cooperating with and assisting in a number of video co-productions related to the Conference. The latter items have been distributed throughout the United Nations system and to broadcasting organizations worldwide.

32. In order to broaden public awareness of the Conference and its priority concerns, the Department has undertaken and coordinated a number of media events and activities, including press conferences for the Secretary-General of the Conference; media functions targeting specific media organizations, broadcasters and journalists' circles; and outreach campaigns targeting media at the international, regional and national levels.

33. In cooperation with United Nations agencies and outside partners, the Department is highlighting critical areas of concern for the Conference in organizing special events for International Literacy Day (8 September 1994), International Day to Eradicate Poverty (17 October 1994), and International Human Rights Day (9 December 1994). The Department has also initiated a number of activities to improve the visibility and elicit the increased participation of important target audiences, such as youth and non-governmental organizations.

C. National level

34. In accordance with resolutions 36/8, section B, 37/7, section I, and 38/10 of the Commission on the Status of Women, all Governments are expected to establish national committees or to designate national focal points to initiate and promote preparations for the Conference, and to inform the Secretary-General accordingly. The Secretary-General brought the matter to the attention of Governments through note verbales in August 1992, as well as in December 1993, inviting Member States to inform him of the establishment of such committees or the designation of such focal points. As of 1 August 1994, the Secretary-General has been apprised of the establishment of 104 national committees. The

addresses of national committees and focal points are being disseminated by the Conference secretariat, as appropriate, in order to facilitate and encourage direct contact and communication regarding Conference preparations.

35. The Commission on the Status of Women has repeatedly stressed the role and importance it attaches to the preparation of national reports that gather facts, assess obstacles and identify priorities for concrete action. One primary purpose of the reports is their use at the national level in helping to shape future national action. In its resolution 48/108, the Assembly appealed to countries to compile their national reports in earnest and to forward them in time, both to their respective regional commissions and the Conference secretariat (para. 25).

36. The national reports also form a major basis of the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, which is structured in the same way as the draft Platform for Action and which provides, in extenso, the factual support for the diagnosis to be presented in the Platform. Furthermore, the draft Platform for Action is expected to draw on the national reports for action proposals that have been identified as being of universal relevance, as addressing the most significant obstacles and as having the greatest multiplier effects, and which have proven effective in national experience. Consequently, in a letter sent to the national committees and focal points in May 1994, the Conference secretariat underlined, inter alia, the double dimension of the national reports.

37. In order to ensure the timely preparation of Conference documentation, the Conference secretariat expressed its hope to receive the national reports by the end of June 1994; in the same letter, the secretariat encouraged national committees to provide, on an ad hoc basis, short updates on national preparatory activities so that such information could be shared, as appropriate. In a note verbale of 7 July 1994, the Secretary-General noted that the deadline for the submission of the national reports had passed and urged those Governments that had not yet submitted their reports to do so as soon as possible. As of 1 August 1994, the Secretariat has received 44 national reports.

D. Regional level

38. As recommended in resolution 36/8, section B of the Commission on the Status of Women, regional preparatory activities are being conducted under the auspices of the regional commissions.

1. Africa

39. The Fifth African Regional Conference on Women, which is preparatory to the Fourth World Conference on Women, will take place in Dakar from 16 to 23 November 1994. The Regional Conference will be held at two levels: an expert group meeting from 16 to 20 November 1994 and a ministerial conference from 21 to 23 November 1994. There will also be a Non-Governmental Organization Forum, which will take place from 13 to 15 November 1994 in Dakar.

40. The African Centre for Women (ACW) and the regional Women in Development (WID) structure in the United Nations system in Africa organized sensitization workshops on the preparation of national reports for eastern and southern Africa (28 February to 2 March), western Africa (15 to 17 March), northern Africa (28 to 30 March), and central Africa and the Great Lakes region (18 to 20 April). The main objectives of the workshops were to review progress at the national level in the preparation of national reports; assess the overall implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies; discuss measures and mechanisms to coordinate activities relating to the preparation of the national reports, including inputs from non-governmental organizations; and discuss and develop communication strategies and information campaigns to ensure a wide publicity for the regional and world conferences. A secondary purpose was to sensitize Member States, educate and inform them about the objectives of the Fourth World Conference on Women and to urge men, women and the youth to be actively involved in the preparation of the national reports. The workshops targeted women from government machineries dealing with women's programmes, community leaders, experts from various non-governmental organizations and women in the media.

41. The First African Television Programme Festival, with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Union of Radio and Television Networks in Africa (URTNA), took place from 14 to 19 March 1994 in Nairobi. ECA awarded prizes to the three films that best contributed to the analysis of gender themes.

42. The Fifteenth Meeting of the African Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) took place in Addis Ababa from 20 to 22 April 1994. As part of the agenda for the meeting, the draft Platform for Action, especially the 10 critical areas of concern and strategic objectives, was highlighted. The meeting also stressed the need for Africa to come up with its own structure and contents for a regional platform for action that would outline the critical areas of African women's concerns and interest. Delegates at the meeting adopted the logo for the Fifth African Regional Conference, which would be used for the intergovernmental meeting as well as the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum.

43. The twenty-ninth session of the ECA/Twentieth Meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning, held at Addis Ababa from 2 to 5 May 1994, changed the name of the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) to African Centre for Women (ACW).

44. The ECA secretariat organized an ad hoc expert group meeting to prepare a draft regional platform for action, to be submitted to the Regional Conference in Dakar. The meeting, which was held from 27 to 29 July 1994 in Tunis, was convened jointly with the Government of Tunisia under the auspices of its Ministry of Women and Family Affairs. The draft regional platform for action includes an introduction containing the themes of equality, development and peace; strategic objectives derived from the critical areas of concern and action to be taken; responsibility for implementation; and institutional arrangements for implementing and monitoring the regional platform for action.

45. A series of information brochures on the Regional Conference as well as a news update have been produced.

46. Other preparatory activities in the region in which ECA has participated include:

(a) The first African regional steering committee meetings of non-governmental organizations in preparation for the Regional Conference in 1994 and the World Conference in 1995, held in Nairobi from 4 to 7 January 1994;

(b) An African Non-Governmental Organizations Forum on the theme "Citizenship and human development in Africa", held in Tunisia;

(c) A meeting of francophone countries preparatory to the Regional Conference, held in Nouakchott, Mauritania from 28 to 30 June 1994.

47. United Nations agencies are actively involved in the preparation of the African Regional Conference: technical papers are being prepared by the agencies in their respective sectors and they also assist Member States at the national level in their preparatory activities.

48. A United Nations inter-agency mechanism is being planned to further coordinate the preparations for the African Regional Conference. It will include the non-governmental organizations convener for the African Non-Governmental Organizations Forum, FEMNET. The objective of such continuous consultation is for all agencies both to ensure collectively that reports to the regional and global forums are factual, accurate and unambiguous, and to maintain the momentum of interest up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and beyond.

2. Asia and the Pacific

49. The Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference took place from 7 to 14 June 1994 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The meeting of senior officials on women in development from 7 to 11 June was attended by representatives from 46 members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Ten United Nations bodies as well as six specialized agencies and five intergovernmental organizations were represented. A total of 40 non-governmental organizations in consultative status and 43 other non-governmental organizations also attended. The meeting was larger and was attended by more non-governmental organizations than any previous ESCAP Conference.

50. The Ministerial Conference was attended by 48 members and associate members of ESCAP, and by 10 observer States. Some 83 non-governmental organizations attended the meeting as observers. It was opened by H.E. President Soeharto of Indonesia. The meeting adopted the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, as well as a regional plan of action.

3. Europe

51. At its forty-eighth session, in April 1993, ECE adopted decision K(48) on its contribution to the preparatory work for the Fourth World Conference on Women. In the decision, ECE requested its Executive Secretary to organize a high-level preparatory meeting by the end of 1994 at the Vienna International Centre, provided that adequate financing was available.

52. For that purpose, the ECE secretariat presented a minimum cost estimate of 200,000 United States dollars to cover its own preparatory activities as well as assistance to countries with economies in transition. The rather late decision to convene the High-level Preparatory Meeting, together with the limited resources available, have put some constraints on the preparatory process for the Meeting.

53. Since it is the first time that an ECE meeting at the intergovernmental level is to take place in preparation for a United Nations conference on women, the emphasis has been put on a series of preparatory activities. In particular, the ECE secretariat has initiated a process of informal consultation with ECE member States, including several meetings aimed at elaborating an outline of the provisional agenda and commencing discussion on the expected outcome of the High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting.

54. The ECE secretariat has also established regular contacts with the ECE Non-Governmental Organizations Working Group in order to ensure the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Meeting. In compliance with the guidelines provided by the Secretary-General of the Conference, ECE is responsible for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations without consultative status at the Regional Meeting. To that end, the ECE secretariat has set up a screening committee charged with examining the applications received. On the basis of the screening process, ECE decided in June 1994 to accredit a list of 72 non-governmental organizations and an additional list of non-governmental organizations requesting accreditation will be submitted to it in September 1994.

55. In February 1994, an informal inter-agency meeting was attended by 21 United Nations institutions and other intergovernmental organizations, all of which expressed their commitment to support the preparatory work of the ECE secretariat through various means: providing existing data and analytical studies; undertaking joint studies with the ECE secretariat on specific topics; and elaborating notes that would synthesize, in a forward-looking approach, the main lessons and conclusions drawn from their respective work on the main issues to be discussed at the High-level Meeting.

56. The ECE secretariat is also carrying out regular consultations with the Secretary-General of the Conference, who briefed ECE delegates in February 1994.

57. Furthermore, a workshop on capacity-building for the advancement of women was organized by the ECE secretariat in June; the workshop was attended by participants from 14 countries with economies in transition. The latter discussed major gender issues as well as ways and means of building national capacities designed to overcome obstacles for the advancement of women with a

view to creating an environment for growth and sustainable development in their countries. The workshop also provided an opportunity for exchanging information on the preparatory process at both the national and international levels for the High-level Meeting and eventually for the World Conference.

58. Finally, a consultative process at expert level was launched on the expected outcome of the Conference, which would constitute the ECE input into the draft Platform for Action. In order to provide such input, it was agreed that the Regional Preparatory Meeting will focus on the theme "Women in a changing world: call for action from an ECE perspective". It was agreed that the discussion at the High-level Meeting will focus on the following substantive items:

(a) "Trends in women's role in the economy". The item will highlight new economic trends within the region, with emphasis on how the changing environment affects the role, participation and situation of women. A holistic approach will be adopted with reference to major economic sectors, including the work done by women in the informal economy;

(b) "Demographic and statistical trends and issues". The item will allow the review of statistics on women, which is expected to yield new insights and methodological approaches. Demographic trends affecting European societies in general and the female population in particular will also be reviewed;

(c) "Women's access to employment and entrepreneurship". The item will focus on the promotion of gender equality in employment, with particular emphasis on sectoral and occupational distribution and on wages and earnings; the gender reconciliation of employment and family life; the question of labour-related poverty; and the issue of women's entrepreneurship, with special emphasis on women's education and training needs, as well as on women's access to credit and land-property rights;

(d) "Role of women in the transition processes". The item will address the specific role of and consequences for women of economic restructuring; the strengthening of entrepreneurship, including through privatization; and subsequent changes in various sectors of the economy. Furthermore, special attention will be paid to social safety nets for the most affected groups in countries with economies in transition.

In addition, the High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting will also consider a regional review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the issue of women in public life, as stipulated by the General Assembly.

59. As of the end of July 1994, the ECE secretariat has received a total of 13 national reports, with an additional 10 reports expected to be received shortly thereafter.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

60. A regional meeting of organizations and bodies of the United Nations system was held in Santiago on 13 December 1993, at which participants studied the draft regional programme of action and established mechanisms for supporting national and subregional preparations for the World Conference.

61. In January 1994, ECLAC organized a meeting to help Caribbean countries prepare national reports for both the Regional Conference and the Fourth World Conference. ECLAC, UNIFEM and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) organized two subregional meetings in Mexico, on 28 and 29 June 1994 and 4 and 5 July 1994. Participants analysed the national reports and discussed the draft regional programme of action. CARICOM organized two meetings to determine strategies and propose measures for adoption at the World Conference.

62. ECLAC is convening the sixth session of the Regional Conference in Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 25 to 29 September 1994. The participants will consider the country reports and will adopt the draft regional programme for action, which proposes priorities for action during the next five years. Primary issues of concern include women's participation in the decision-making process, power relationships, domestic violence, women and the environment, women in employment and training.

5. Western Asia

63. At its seventeenth session, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopted resolution 203 (XVII), in which it stressed the need to strengthen national and regional machinery for the advancement of women.

64. Following the establishment of joint national committees with balanced representation from concerned ministries and non-governmental organizations in all countries of the ESCWA region, phase two of the ESCWA preparatory activities includes the convening of national workshops to formulate national plans of action in the light of the findings of the national reports prepared by the national committees. With funding from UNIFEM, the Women and Development Section of ESCWA convened seven national workshops between May and July 1994 in Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Another workshop is envisaged for Palestine. United Nations agencies based in each of those ESCWA countries were invited to participate in the national workshops as observers. Drafts of those countries' national reports served as the main working documents for the national workshops, which were facilitated/ moderated by the ESCWA secretariat.

65. Several ESCWA countries, including Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates and Syria, presented their national reports to the public by means of press conferences, thus giving high visibility to the Fourth World Conference on Women and its preparatory activities. Most of the national reports of the countries of the region are expected to be finalized by the end of July and will be submitted to the ESCWA secretariat and to the Conference secretariat.

66. Under phase three, ESCWA will pursue a bottom-up approach in formulating a regional draft plan of action, using the national reports and feedback from the national workshops as inputs. ESCWA preparatory activities under that phase will culminate in convening the Regional Preparatory Conference.

67. The Regional Preparatory Conference will include two segments. The first segment will consist of an Expert Group meeting to finalize the draft regional plan of action and will take place in Amman from 6 to 8 November 1994. The second segment will consist of a High-level Segment to adopt the draft regional plan of action for the advancement of Arab women, i.e., the Ministerial Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, which will take place on 9 and 10 November in Amman. Those regional preparatory activities will be sponsored by Her Royal Highness, Princess Basma Bint Talal, Chairperson of the Jordanian National Committee for Women. They will be held in collaboration with the League of Arab States in Cairo and the Arab Women Center for Training Research in Tunis.

68. A fact sheet on the Regional Preparatory Meeting, which is currently under preparation, will be issued. Funding for publishing the fact sheet in Arabic and English is being sought, including from the Department of Public Information.

69. An informal inter-agency task force on women, under the leadership of ESCWA and composed of WID officers of United Nations agencies based in Amman, was established in May 1994 to coordinate activities related to women's issues and concerns starting with preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women. The purpose of the task force is to avoid duplication and to streamline preparatory activities. The task force is endeavouring to identify region-specific indicators on women for inclusion in a forthcoming publication of ESCWA and the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT); the publication will be modelled on The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics 2/ and will cover the ESCWA countries.

E. Intergovernmental level

70. Since the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women have been the major item on the agenda of the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. A working group of the Commission discussed the draft Platform for Action that had been prepared by the Secretary-General. The Commission, in adopting resolution 38/10 on preparations for the Conference, provided guidance to the secretariat on the continuing process of preparing a revised draft of the Platform of Action, which is to be submitted to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session. The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that the thirty-ninth session of the Commission be extended by one week and that provision be made for a two-week meeting of a parallel working group. The Commission proposed that the session be scheduled for 15 March to 5 April 1995. The Commission also decided to consider the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference, which had been prepared by the Secretary-General, at its thirty-ninth session.

71. The Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1994, took note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-eighth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its thirty-ninth session in decision 1994/237. An open-ended informal consultation on the draft Platform of Action also took place during the session.

72. The Conference secretariat has been apprised of a number of intergovernmental activities organized to contribute to the overall preparations of the Conference. A calendar of upcoming intergovernmental and other events is annexed to the present report.

73. The secretariat has received input from a number of such events, including the results of the African Regional Conference on Women and Peace (Uganda), the meeting of European Women Ministers (Belgium), the meeting of the European Union in preparation of the Conference (Spain), and the Pacific Regional Women's Conference (New Caledonia). The results of those meetings are being reviewed for material that could be incorporated into the preparation of Conference documentation.

F. Host country arrangements

74. A second planning mission to the host country headed by the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference, with the participation of representatives of the Office of Conference Services, the Office of General Services and the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, took place from 29 May to 4 June 1994. A working draft of the host country agreement and a revised set of estimated resource requirements of the United Nations for holding the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing had been submitted to the host Government well in advance of the mission and served as basis for the discussions. The mission worked with the China Organizing Committee for the Conference, which comprises five functional subcommittees (Steering Committee, Committee for Public Information, Administration and Finance Committee, Security Committee, and Non-Governmental Organizations Forum Committee), as well as a General Office.

75. In prior consultation with the host Government, a provisional agenda for the mission had been prepared. It provided for joint opening and closing meetings, and for technical group talks on finance and administration, including Conference servicing; Conference facilities and personnel; information; and security.

76. The mission reviewed in detail the working draft of the host country agreement and the resource requirements. The United Nations was able to further assess the status of technical preparations undertaken by the host Government. In the course of the review of the documents as well as during detailed inspections of the proposed Conference site, a number of technical, administrative, financial and organizational matters were further clarified and specified.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

77. In general, the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system continue to implement ongoing activities launched since the inception of the preparatory process for the Fourth World Conference on Women. An account of such activities was included in the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Conference submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session (E/CN.6/1994/9 and Corr.1). The present report updates the information provided to the Commission and reports on new initiatives undertaken since January.

A. United Nations

1. Statistical Division

78. Research, data compilation and preliminary analysis for the special update for the Conference of The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics 2/ were largely completed at the end of July 1994. Findings are to be reviewed with the sponsoring agencies (the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNIFEM, the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Division for the Advancement of Women) in the period July to November 1994. Final publication in all languages is scheduled for early June 1995. The special update will contain chapters on population, families and households; population and environment; health; education science and media; and work and power. It will highlight new and innovative statistics on such subjects as women and national accounting, women in science and the media, and women in positions of power.

79. A complete update of the Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (Wistat), supported by UNFPA, is also expected to be completed in August 1994, in close cooperation with the regional commissions. Wistat is the main data source for The World's Women and will be issued on diskettes and CD-ROM for independent research and analysis at the national, regional and international levels. The manual in preparation by UNSTAT for national use on how to compile and organize statistics on gender issues and how to present tables and charts and write up the quantitative analysis is to be completed and issued in draft form in the fall of 1994. It will be distributed in draft for use at various national and regional workshops and is to be published in final form in 1995. The work is supported by the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP).

2. Department of Humanitarian Affairs

80. In its effort to ensure a timely and effective response to humanitarian disasters and emergencies, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is paying particular attention to the special circumstances of women and girls in emergency situations. It is fully aware that an efficient response to such situations requires the recognition of gender concerns and

their concrete integration into such activities as vulnerability and local capacity assessments. The issue of violence against women, particularly in conflict situations, will be given special attention by field coordinators, who have been requested to strengthen their efforts to address the vulnerability to rape and sexual coercion of refugee and displaced women and girls, as well as their special health and protection needs. In addition, the Department recognizes the productive potential of women in emergency situations and the need to build upon those resources in designing and implementing relief, rehabilitation and development activities. In order to facilitate the implementation of the policy, the Department has appointed a focal point for gender issues, funding for which is being provided by UNIFEM.

3. Centre for Human Rights

81. In February 1994, the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat established a focal point to coordinate action within the Centre on the status and human rights of women, which have implications for all aspects of the plan of activities of the Centre for Human Rights. The focal point also operates within the United Nations system, particularly in cooperation and coordination with the Division for the Advancement of Women and other United Nations bodies, as well as with non-governmental organizations related to women, especially in regard to the preparatory process for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

82. A number of activities already undertaken or being planned by the Centre for Human Rights are relevant to the Conference, such as a seminar for the Asian region organized by the Centre in 1994 in Colombo, Sri Lanka on the elimination of harmful traditional practices affecting the health of women and children. The seminar centred its discussion on the inferior status of the girl child and of women, which is reflected in their economic, social, cultural and political status and in all stages of their life.

83. In addition to its contribution to preparing relevant documentation for the Commission on the Status of Women and the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Centre will prepare and publish fact sheets on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as on the work of the Committee, which will be widely disseminated in the course of 1994. Another fact sheet on United Nations action for the elimination of traditional practices affecting the health of women and children will also be prepared for the Conference. In addition, the report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women will be made available to the Conference. As a follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights, the Centre is planning the preparation of a report on the status and human rights of women, which will cover activities undertaken for the integration of the human rights of women into existing human rights mechanisms and procedures. The report will also be issued for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

4. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

84. In March 1994, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) established a Focal Point on Women in UNCTAD to mobilize and integrate inputs from within UNCTAD to support its participation in the preparatory process for the Fourth World Conference on Women and in other relevant activities.

85. UNCTAD work on women in development and gender issues is concentrated in three main areas: the least developed countries, poverty alleviation, and science and technology.

86. As part of the UNCTAD preparatory process of the Mid-term Global Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, an Expert Group Meeting on Women in Development in the Least Developed Countries is planned for the end of 1994. The Meeting is expected to undertake a review and assessment of specific measures to enhance women's access to and participation in the social sector in those countries; a review and assessment of measures to promote women's participation in the productive sector focusing in particular on the development of informal, micro-, and small-scale enterprises for women; and a review and assessment of measures to incorporate women's concerns in mainstream development, with an emphasis on the role and functioning of women's associations and organizations in the least developed countries.

87. The UNCTAD secretariat is preparing a comprehensive background study for the Expert Group Meeting, reviewing progress and problems in the situation of women in the least developed countries, measures taken to enhance women's developmental roles and constraints that are faced in implementing those measures. Moreover, a number of selected country case-studies are envisaged on topics such as family planning through the empowerment of women; opportunities and constraints for female petty traders; and involving women in social forestry programmes. A Steering Committee has been established to guide the work of the Expert Group Meeting and contribute to its follow-up at the intergovernmental level as well as possible operational follow-up. The conclusions and outcome of the Meeting will form part of the UNCTAD contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women and will help the Conference to take into account in its work the concerns of women in the least developed countries.

88. With respect to poverty alleviation, gender issues, though not singled out for exclusive attention, figure with varying degrees of prominence in most of the analytical and policy-oriented work carried out by UNCTAD on the subject. Since women are disproportionately represented among the poor, UNCTAD has suggested policy guidelines concerning women in policy areas ranging from how to make official development assistance (ODA) more cost-effective in reaching the poor to the issue of how to create more jobs for the poor. Those issues will be taken up at the second session of the Standing Committee in July 1994. The poverty alleviation programme in the fall of 1994 plans to examine, inter alia, the role of women in migration and in export-crops production.

89. The UNCTAD secretariat continues to provide substantive support to the work of the Working Group on Gender, Science and Technology of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, which is due to meet in July 1995.

5. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

90. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), in collaboration with WHO and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, prepared a United Nations system position paper (available in English, French and Spanish) on the theme "Women and drug abuse", which was presented as a background document to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session (E/CN.6/1994/BP.1). The paper has been disseminated to all the regional and field offices of UNDP/UNDCP as reference and will be presented to the Fourth World Conference on Women as a background document.

91. "Women and substance abuse" was chosen as the theme for the International Day Against Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse on 26 June 1994. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of UNDCP made statements on the occasion. In addition, an information brochure on women and drug abuse has been produced and disseminated to the regional and field offices of UNDCP and to other organizations, particularly non-governmental organizations.

92. UNDCP has contributed a section on women and drug abuse statistics to the forthcoming update of The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics. 2/

93. UNDCP has provided funding for a women and substance abuse project undertaken by WHO that assessed the world situation and produced a series of three country-specific reports, namely, "Women and substance abuse: 1992 interim report" (WHO/PSA/92.9), containing nine country reports from eastern Europe, Africa and Central America; "Women and drug abuse: 1993 country assessment report" (WHO/PSA/93/13), containing 11 country reports from Africa, Asia and Latin America; and "Women and drug abuse: 1994 final report" (WHO/PSA/94.x, forthcoming), containing eight country reports from Asia, Africa and central Asia. The project also produced the report of an expert consultation on the theme "Women and substance abuse: A gender analysis and review of health and policy implications" (WHO/PSA/93/12).

94. To increase the awareness of women and substance abuse issues, UNDCP is promoting a gender-sensitive approach in its country project formulation, in the assessment of country drug abuse situation and in the collection of national drug abuse data.

95. In addition to collaborating with WHO in formulating a global project on women and substance abuse prevention intervention in Asia, Africa, Latin America and eastern Europe for 1994-1995, UNDCP is providing guidance in formulating drug demand-reduction projects utilizing women as a resource and is providing assistance to women in need in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

6. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

96. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has taken a "bottom-up" approach to its intervention in the Conference preparations.

Focal points at the national level that have been asked to provide input to the national reports that highlight the situation of refugee women in their countries, based on consultations with the refugees and UNHCR's implementing partners (non-governmental organizations) and government ministries). At the same time, the regional focal points combine the various issues identified at the national level into regional reports that they then present at regional preparatory meetings. To date, reports on the situation of refugee women in Africa and Asia and a position paper on Europe have resulted from the process.

97. Conference room papers or regional briefs will form the basis of the UNHCR Global Statement on Refugee Women, which UNHCR will endeavour to ensure is reflected in the draft Platform for Action. In addition, numerous UNHCR field offices have planned specific activities to mark the Conference and the UNHCR public information office is planning a calendar with a focus on refugee women, a special poster and a video.

7. United Nations Children's Fund

98. The main thrust of UNICEF support for the Fourth World Conference on Women is in collaborative efforts with Governments, international and national agencies, focal points in United Nations agencies, government and non-governmental organizations. At the regional and country levels, UNICEF supports national and regional preparatory activities in collaboration with the regional commissions and other United Nations agencies.

99. The following activities have been identified as the main areas of UNICEF cooperation in the preparatory process:

(a) At headquarters, UNICEF has assigned a senior UNICEF staff member to the Conference secretariat. An internal task force has been constituted to guide the planning and implementation of the UNICEF contribution to the Conference. An executive directive has been issued to field offices on UNICEF commitment to the Conference, recommending areas for action at the regional and national levels, such as special meetings and events for advocacy on UNICEF concerns in collaboration with international non-governmental organizations, women's organizations and youth organizations. At headquarters, documentation and production of publications and other materials are under production for dissemination at the regional conferences and the World Conference;

(b) At the regional level, UNICEF is collaborating with the regional commissions in their preparations for the regional conferences. It supports working groups, non-governmental organizations planning committees, preparatory conferences, non-governmental organizations forums and youth forums. In the course of that collaboration, UNICEF provides inputs for the agenda; supports documentation; sponsors representatives from countries of the region; and facilitates media support for those events. It will provide regional networks for the Conference and beyond, involving such organizations as FEMNET in Africa, the Network of Parliamentarians in Latin America and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN);

(c) At the country level, UNICEF contributes through direct participation in national preparatory committees, dialogue with national focal points in both government and non-government sectors, and participation in inter-agency coordinating committees. It supports the preparation of national reports, the formulation of national plans of action for the follow-up of the Conference outcomes, and the establishment of non-governmental organizations and youth networks. Such support includes assistance to the analysis of the situation of women and girls, policy reviews and preparation of background information in connection with the formulation of the country paper and inputs to the draft Platform for Action;

(d) In addition, UNICEF will promote the mobilization of pubic support - starting with grass-roots women's organizations, youth organizations and local people's organizations - for a wider discussion, understanding and articulation of critical issues within countries and at the Conference. It will advocate for the ratification of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, drawing on its complementarity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Girl-child perspectives and policy will be a special focus for advocacy and support. Activities aimed at generating awareness and interest in the communication media about gender issues and the national and international activities related to the Conference will be supported. An important area of support will be the documentation of successful experiences and the publication and dissemination of such materials through the women's network and at the Conference.

8. United Nations Development Fund for Women

100. In keeping with its proactive role in preparatory activities for the Fourth World Conference on Women, UNIFEM launched the Umbrella Project to Support UNIFEM Initiatives for the Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1993. Through the Umbrella Project, UNIFEM has operationalized more than 85 global, regional and nationally based initiatives in preparation for the Conference, in collaboration with other development partners, including United Nations agencies and the Conference secretariat. Examples of such initiatives are described below.

101. At the global/international level, funding and/or technical assistance and in-kind support has been or is being provided for:

(a) The participation of a representative of the Conference secretariat in a training workshop for the All China Women's Federation (ACWF) in China, organized jointly by UNIFEM and the Conference secretariat in collaboration with UNDP;

(b) Contribution to an expert group meeting on "Measures to eradicate violence against women in the family and society", in preparation of the priority theme under development for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(c) An assessment of the impact on women of technical cooperation and lending by United Nations and Bretton Woods institutions and of the

mainstreaming to women of technical and financial assistance, initiated by the Conference secretariat and led by the World Bank;

(d) The implementation of the Conference secretariat's youth strategy for the Fourth World Conference on Women, including the convening of a youth meeting prior to the Regional Preparatory Conference in Dakar in November 1994.

102. UNIFEM subregional offices have been actively involved in the preparatory activities for the Conference on behalf of international organizations.

103. In early November 1994, UNIFEM will place a special adviser on the Fourth World Conference on Women in the UNDP country office in Beijing to contribute to effective coordination within the United Nations system.

104. UNIFEM has provided support to 22 countries in their national and regional preparations, including as follows:

(a) In India, UNIFEM is an active member of the Inter-Agency Facilitation Committee for Beijing (IFCB), a group formed to coordinate the dissemination of information on the Conference to non-governmental organizations in South Asia;

(b) In collaboration with UNICEF, UNDP and the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), UNIFEM supported the preparation of a Somali country paper for both the African Regional Conference and for the World Conference;

(c) In Argentina, in collaboration with UNICEF, UNIFEM is sponsoring the first and second national meetings of non-governmental organizations for the purpose of designating a diverse and representative coordinating committee;

(d) In Pakistan, UNIFEM organized a meeting bringing together government officials, non-governmental organizations, researchers and representatives of the media to discuss, prioritize and coordinate national activities;

(e) Funds have been provided to the Lao Women's Union for their national congress and for the recruitment of a consultant to draft the national report;

(f) In Barbados, UNIFEM collaborated with the CARICOM secretariat in organizing the First Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women in the Caribbean;

(g) In Belize, the Bahamas and Jamaica, UNIFEM has provided a resource person to the national committees and women's bureaux in the preparation of the official national reports;

(h) In Mexico, UNIFEM has supported the preparation of both the non-governmental organizations and the government national reports;

(i) UNIFEM has assisted in the preparation of the national reports with the national committees in both Senegal and Mali. Following the UNIFEM initiative, an informal WID network has agreed to jointly fund a consultant to draft the portion of the report regarding technical assistance for women in Senegal;

(j) Special assistance has been given to the All China Women's Federation (ACWF) in their preparations for the Conference. Inter alia, funds were provided for a communication expert from the Association for Progressive Communication to travel to Beijing to assist ACWF in installing and connecting their new computers. The ACWF staff is now trained in the use of electronic mail and other computer programmes.

105. UNIFEM is funding and facilitating the participation of member non-governmental organizations giving particular attention to new ones, in the following preparatory regional meetings: regional non-governmental organizations symposium in Manila, non-governmental organizations regional working group meeting in Bangkok, non-governmental organizations forum in Caracas, non-governmental organizations regional preparatory meeting in Ecuador, and national non-governmental organizations meetings in Brazil and Paraguay. UNIFEM also assists in channelling funds to non-governmental organizations to help them in their Conference preparations. It initiated and facilitated a working group of non-governmental organizations involved in micro-lending in order to develop and implement strategies that would highlight women and finance at the Conference and the non-governmental organization Forum.

106. UNIFEM has focused on launching activities at headquarters as well as at the country and regional levels that will generate wider public information, awareness and support for the Conference, including:

(a) The production of information kits on the Conference in French, which have been widely disseminated in francophone Africa;

(b) The mounting of three subregional competitions for francophone Africa for posters on gender themes. A pamphlet in French targeting young girls was widely distributed;

(c) The compilation of a comprehensive directory and profiles of non-governmental organizations in Nigeria that are interested in actively preparing for the Conference, which are currently under preparation;

(d) The provision of support for the Non-Governmental Organizations Asian and Pacific Working Group to publish a bimonthly newsletter that provides a regional perspective on the preparation process and includes a youth page.

9. United Nations Development Programme

107. UNDP continues to contribute to the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women through the following main areas of activity:

(a) Support through the UNDP regional bureaux and resident missions in the preparation of national reports;

(b) Preparation of the 1995 Human Development Report, which will focus on women;

(c) Implementation of the UNDP strategy for the Conference, the Making Beijing Successful Strategy.

The main elements of the Strategy are to build and strengthen national capacities through the identification and implementation of strategic and operational approaches to the empowerment of women; review and adapt gender training methodology; integrate gender and gender statistics in social and economic analysis; and increase collaboration with other United Nations agencies.

108. In a follow-up letter to the UNDP Administrator's affirmation of the UNDP commitment to providing support to the preparations for the Conference, the UNDP Gender in Development Programme (GIDP) requested UNDP resident representatives to encourage and support the coordination of system-wide Conference preparatory activities in their respective countries. In all regions, UNDP resident missions are assisting with the preparation of national reports.

109. In addition to providing support to individual Governments for the preparations of national reports, all UNDP regional bureaux are contributing to the preparations through the sponsorship of special projects, including preparing audio-visual material; issuing special publications on gender and sustainable human development; and conducting training programmes on gender and development. For example, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) is providing support for national preparations through the Arab Women's Centre for Research and Training. The UNDP Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (DEC) is formulating projects to assist countries in the region with the preparation of national reports.

110. The UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) is providing support for national preparations by facilitating national preparatory meetings and the production of national reports. Seventeen reports have been produced to date. In preparing the reports, efforts are being made to capture the non-governmental organizations perspective. For instance, RBA has supported a project in Zambia designed to involve female and male researchers in preparing analytical and empirical evidence. RBA is planning national workshops on gender and sustainable human development. The reports of the workshops will be analysed and produced as a brochure to be disseminated at the Conference.

111. RBA is sponsoring an independent gender in development (GID) expert to prepare a report that will document UNDP/RBA efforts in mainstreaming women in development issues, based on the experience of six African countries. RBA and UNIFEM are co-sponsoring the OAU Women in Development Unit to identify two key issues that require policy-level interventions to be tabled at the World Conference. In collaboration with UNIFEM and African women's non-governmental organizations, RBA has also supported the training of 30 male and female journalists in covering international conferences. The journalists were also provided with skills in gender analysis and new reporting through the gender lens. RBA will participate in the African Regional Preparatory meeting to be held in Dakar in November 1994.

112. The UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) has provided a substantive contribution to the Conference by commissioning a report on gender,

poverty and sustainable development. As part of the consultative process for the preparation of the report, RBAP supported a series of workshops at the ESCAP Symposium of Non-governmental organizations on Women in Development in Manila in November 1993. Country offices in the Asia and the Pacific region, such as China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, have supported the following preparatory activities: consultancies to assist national women's machineries in the preparation of national reports; the formation of United Nations inter-agency committees; and support to specific non-governmental organizations.

113. RBAP has also provided support to Governments of developing countries and non-governmental organizations in their preparations for the ESCAP regional ministerial meetings, including support to the Governments of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Samoa, Maldives and Mongolia to attend the ministerial meetings; and to the Philippine secretariat of the ESCAP Symposium of Non-Governmental Organizations.

114. In China, the UNDP Beijing office continues to support the All China Women's Federation in the overall Conference preparations and to provide other logistical support to agencies within the United Nations system.

10. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

115. INSTRAW is preparing the following publications and activities targeted at the Fourth World Conference on Women:

(a) Women's access to credit and impact analysis of projects;

(b) Case studies on women in agriculture in East European countries in transition economies. Results of the case studies conducted in Hungary and Bulgaria are currently being synthesized for publication;

(c) Measuring and Valuing Unpaid Contribution: Accounting Through Time-use. The publication, which is currently being finalized, is based on the results of the INSTRAW project on the valuation of women's work through time-use. During the period 1994-1995, the second phase of the project will be undertaken, from which supplementary outputs may be prepared for dissemination at the Conference;

(d) An INSTRAW/ECE joint work session on statistics on women in the ECE region, to be held in March 1995 in collaboration with ECE. The topics to be discussed relate to the issues and themes to be addressed at the World Conference. Outputs from the work session will be compiled and made available at the Conference.

116. INSTRAW envisages the organization of panels on the following subjects at the Non-Governmental Organization Forum:

(a) Women, communication and media;

(b) The use and importance of time-use statistics in addressing gender issues. Arrangements for the proposed panel are currently being discussed with the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat and possibly with UNDP;

(c) The use of existing gender statistics: information dissemination. UNSTAT is taking the lead role in the organization of the panel, while INSTRAW and other relevant agencies are collaborating;

(d) Women, water supply and sanitation. The panel is being developed by INSTRAW in collaboration with UNICEF.

11. United Nations University

117. The main relevant activity of the United Nations University (UNU)/World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) has been a research and policy-oriented project that examines women's employment and social policies within the context of global economic restructuring. Research is being conducted on the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Mexico and Zimbabwe, and on the Russian Federation, Poland, Bulgaria, China, Cuba and Viet Nam. The principal investigator heads a team of seven collaborators from economies in transition, who are preparing country studies on market reforms and their impact on working women. The first draft of the papers will be ready in November 1994 and the authors will be invited to present their findings at a UNU/WIDER workshop to be held in Beijing. The purpose of the workshop will be to examine similarities and differences among the countries and to suggest policies that enhance women's employment and conditions of work.

118. UNU/WIDER has also cooperated with other United Nations agencies in their preparations for the Conference. That cooperation has included participation in ad hoc inter-agency meetings on gender issues, for which the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat serves as secretariat; submission of materials for and comments on the forthcoming update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development; 1/ participation in an ESCAP Expert Group Meeting held in Bangkok in February 1994 to discuss and finalize background papers and a draft platform for action for the Second Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference that took place in Jakarta in June 1994; participation in the International Labour Organization (ILO)/International Institute for Labour Studies (IILS) Expert Group Meeting on the theme "Women workers and global restructuring", held in Geneva in June 1994; submission of materials for the North-South Institute's Expert Group Meeting on the theme "Women's equality and global economic reform" in Ottawa in June 1994; and comments on the draft outline of the UNDP 1995 Human Development Report, which will focus on gender. UNU/WIDER is also cooperating with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service in its plans to convene a seminar for women's non-governmental organizations from eastern and central Europe in Bratislava, Slovakia, in October 1994, and has established ties with the Women in Development Unit of ESCWA.

B. Specialized agencies

1. International Labour Organization

119. At its two hundred twenty-fifth session, the ILO Governing Body requested the ILO to participate actively in the Fourth World Conference on Women and its preparatory process, such as the regional preparatory conferences. Furthermore, it was recommended that ILO constituents contribute fully to those efforts.

120. At the regional level, the ILO has been actively involved in the preparations and consultative meetings for the regional preparatory conferences in the five regions and plans to attend all the regional preparatory conferences. The ILO, for example, attended and addressed the Second Asian and Pacific Conference on Women and Development, held in Jakarta, from 7 to 14 June 1994. It helped to prepare the chapters on women's access to employment and entrepreneurship and on the role of women in the transition process within the report to be examined by the European Regional Preparatory Meeting, which is held in Vienna from 17 to 21 October 1994. In Africa, the preparation of the chapter on economic empowerment of women in the regional report for the regional preparatory conference was subcontracted to ILO.

121. At the national level, the ILO has been providing technical advice to the national committees. The ILO field structures have tried to encourage the participation of the ILO tripartite members in the work of those committees in order to ensure that labour-related issues are adequately covered. Furthermore, the ILO has been providing comments on some of the completed national reports to ensure an adequate coverage of employment-related issues.

122. There was a joint ILO/European Commission/Government of Italy seminar on the theme "Women and work", held on 21 and 22 March 1994 at the Turin Centre of the ILO. The seminar considered women's employment and atypical forms of work, active labour market policies, social protection and women's representation. It was attended by about 120 representatives of Governments, employers, trade unions and national women's machineries or bodies responsible for the promotion of equal opportunities. The outcome of the seminar was transmitted to the European Union meeting on women held in Toledo, Spain from 14 to 16 April 1994 and will also be a contribution to the forthcoming European Regional Preparatory Conference, to be held in Vienna.

123. Of significance was the International Forum on Equality for Women in a Changing World, which was held from 1 to 3 June 1994 under the auspices of IILS. The Forum assessed current trends and identified effective strategies and other elements that should go into a future agenda for action to accelerate the process of achieving gender equality in the world of work. It was a highly stimulating meeting, attended by researchers, policy makers and representatives of Governments, employers' and workers' organizations. Specific data gaps and areas for future research were identified, such as globalization and women's work; issues relating to the labour market; the social clause and women, as well as the concerns of vulnerable groups.

124. In general, the Forum perceived that there was a need for an integrated strategy that would involve all major institutions both individually and

collectively in order to ensure an effective approach for promoting the equality of opportunity and treatment for men and women in employment in a changing global environment. Discussion demonstrated that an appropriate agenda for future action should encompass supportive legislative framework and enforcement mechanisms; gender-sensitive macro- and micro-economic policy-making and active labour market policy formulation; skills training oriented towards employment opportunities emerging from technological transformations and the restructuring of production processes and work organizations; the promotion of access to productive resources; the improved coverage of social security and social protection; the promotion of quality employment; the empowerment of women through mobilization in groups, and their representation and participation in decision-making; the strengthening of institutional capacity and the building of alliances between institutions; targeting the more vulnerable and disadvantaged women, such as the unemployed, poor, migrant, displaced, disabled, and rural and informal sector workers; and the generation of improved data, conceptual and analytical bases.

125. Examples of other ILO meetings geared to the Fourth World Conference are: a seminar on equality of opportunity and treatment for workers with family responsibilities for selected countries of Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Brisbane from 11 to 15 July 1994; a tripartite symposium on the problems of women workers in Arab countries, to be held in Amman from 11 to 15 September 1994; a seminar on the impact of economic restructuring on the employment, training and working conditions of women for selected English-speaking African countries, to be held in Harare from 24 to 28 October 1994; a subregional tripartite seminar on equality in the East Asian subregion, to be held in fall 1994; a tripartite meeting of experts on the theme "Social security and social protection: equality of treatment between men and women", to be held in Geneva from 3 to 7 October 1994; a Caribbean subregional tripartite seminar on equality of opportunity and treatment for workers with family responsibilities, to be held in Georgetown, Guyana, from 28 November to 2 December 1994; an Asian subregional tripartite awareness-raising workshop on improving working conditions for women in economies in transition, to be held in Beijing from 7 to 11 November 1994; and a regional workshop on the development of women's entrepreneurship, to be held in Bangkok in April 1994.

126. The ILO is, in addition, producing a 52-minute documentary film, Women and Work; working papers; a book entitled Women Workers: Selected ILO Policy Documents; an annotated bibliography on women and employment; a training package on women's rights; and information bulletins on the Fourth World Conference on Women to inform ILO staff and constituents about the preparations for the Beijing conference.

127. At the international level, the ILO has been working closely with the Conference secretariat in connection with ILO technical inputs to reports and documents currently under preparation. The ILO is regularly represented at the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. It also participates regularly in the inter-agency mechanisms on women. At the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the representative of the ILO chaired the working group that drafted the joint statement and delivered it on behalf of the other organizations and agencies.

128. To ensure effective follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women after 1995, the ILO is already considering the preparation of some specific proposals for action.

2. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

129. In the fall of 1993, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched the programme "FAO Assistance in Support of Rural Women in Preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women" in order to provide technical and financial support to several Member States in their preparations for Beijing. A total of 16 countries or areas have participated in the programme: Peru, Honduras, the Eastern Caribbean, El Salvador, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Benin, Congo, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Tanzania, Namibia, Cameroon and the Philippines.

130. Phase I of the programme provides support for (a) the preparation of sectoral reports on women in agriculture and rural development and (b) consultative workshops to discuss critical issues affecting rural women that should be addressed in the report.

131. Phase II of the programme seeks to strengthen national capacity to implement the draft Platform for Action that will be adopted by the Conference. To that end, Phase II provides support to ministries of agriculture to improve information on women's contribution to agriculture in order to influence a more gender-sensitive approach to policies, programmes and projects.

132. To complement those activities, FAO has developed a project to improve the collection and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data on agriculture and rural development by means of agriculture censuses and surveys. Under the project, national case studies on improving gender disaggregated data were prepared for several countries in the Near East (Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Pakistan and Sudan). Those reports were discussed at a workshop held in Cairo from 26 to 28 July 1994. Based on the results of the workshop, guidelines for the production and dissemination of data disaggregated by gender will be produced for analogous undertakings in other countries in the Near East and for similar activities in other regions of the world.

133. A regional synthesis report for Africa is currently being prepared by FAO based on the sectoral reports of the eight African countries participating in Phase I activities (Zimbabwe, Namibia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Congo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Uganda). Both the regional synthesis report and the national sectoral reports will be sent to ECA and presented at the Regional Conference in Dakar. It is hoped that the issues raised in those reports will then be incorporated into the regional plan of action for the advancement of women in Africa.

134. In addition, the FAO Office for Africa (RAFR) is in the process of organizing a one-day meeting prior to the Regional Conference to discuss the national sectoral reports as well as the regional synthesis report. Based on those discussions, resolutions and a follow-up strategy will be prepared in order to facilitate implementation of the plan of action for Africa.

135. The FAO for Asia and the Pacific (RAPA) presented a statement on FAO activities in the region at the Regional Preparatory Conference in Jakarta. A small exhibition of photographs, charts and FAO publications were also displayed at the Conference.

136. The FAO Office for Europe (REUR) has also initiated a project to compile data and information and prepare country profiles on women's role in agriculture and rural development in selected countries of the central and eastern European subregion. The project will provide gender disaggregated data to support the formulation of rural development programmes and policies at the national level. A total of 10 countries have received assistance from FAO in the European region and include Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Latvia and Bulgaria.

137. In addition, REUR is organizing a one-day regional consultative meeting to discuss the findings of the reports and to produce recommendations on the mechanisms and policies required to address the needs of rural women in the region. The recommendations will then be presented at the Regional Conference in Vienna.

138. Support for the preparation of sectoral reports on women in agriculture and rural development has been provided by the FAO Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLAC) to several additional countries in the region, including Mexico, Costa Rica, Chile and Venezuela.

139. RLAC is also in the process of preparing a regional document that analyses the situation of rural women in the region during the period 1985-1995. The document will be based on the national reports prepared for the World Conference, including the sectoral reports on women in agriculture and rural development, as well as on the outputs of a subregional workshop on women, rural development and decentralization processes, to be held in Caracas from 23 to 25 August 1994. RLAC is organizing a meeting in Mexico to review the draft document and, based on those discussions, a revised report will be presented and discussed at the Regional Conference in Mar del Plata and included in the regional report to be presented at the World Conference.

140. FAO is also in the process of publishing a case study on women in the Peruvian Amazon, which was an additional output of Phase I activities in preparation for the Conference. The case study analyses the situation and roles of women in the social and economic context of the Peruvian Amazon. Included in the report are actions that need to be taken on a variety of fronts to raise the status of women in the region.

141. Support for the preparation of sectoral reports on women in agriculture and rural development has been provided to an additional 17 countries by the FAO Office for the Near East (RNEA) under the Regional Programme of Action for Women in Agriculture in the Near East (RPAWANE). The countries participating in the exercise are: Cyprus, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Somalia, the Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

142. The RPAWANE reports will be consolidated into a synthesis report on women in agriculture in the Near East and submitted to ESCWA as a regional input to the World Conference. The recommendations of the synthesis report will then be translated into a Plan of Action for Women in Agriculture in the Near East that would cover the next decade (1996-2005). RNEA also plans to hold a meeting to bring together all country coordinators, relevant United Nations agencies, and selected non-governmental organizations to review the synthesis report and enrich the draft Plan of Action through a participatory approach. Once endorsed, the Plan will guide future RENA work and orientations based on the priorities and need-driven requirements of the countries of the region.

143. The Women in Agricultural Production and Rural Development Service has also developed an internal information campaign to inform FAO staff about the Conference and to encourage their contribution to preparatory activities.

3. World Health Organization

144. The Global Commission on Women's Health met from 13 to 15 April 1994 at the headquarters of WHO in Geneva under the Chairmanship of Senator Patricia Giles of Australia. The Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, a member of the Global Commission, participated in the meeting. The Global Commission on Women's Health is an advocacy, advisory and supportive body to WHO and relevant agencies of the United Nations system working with WHO on women's health.

145. The following were agreed upon at the first meeting of the Global Commission:

(a) A framework for addressing women's health issues that takes a holistic view of women's health throughout their lifespan and in all regions of the world. The framework takes as its starting-point six issue areas that are considered as pointers to the main health problems women face: nutrition, reproductive health, violence against women, ageing, lifestyle-related health conditions, and the work environment;

(b) The key role of the Global Commission as a powerful political body informing, advocating and proposing actions to ensure that women's health issues remain a priority on national and international agendas and in the media and that inequities based on gender will be eliminated;

(c) Women's right to health as a human right that should be incorporated in existing treaty bodies and instruments;

(d) The identification of gaps in information on women's health and an outline for an action programme aimed at improving the quality of life and health security of women at all periods in their lifespan.

The Global Commission chose as one of its mottos that "No women should die in childbirth".

146. WHO has also accelerated activities focused on improving women's health in a number of areas as an integral component of its preparation for the World Conference. Efforts include collecting and disseminating sex-disaggregated data on women's health, and building up information resource centres on women's health to service countries and agencies. Ongoing activities have also been accelerated in such areas as women's health and AIDS; research in human reproduction; the promotion of women's leadership; and women's health, especially adolescent health, reproductive health and, more recently, the emerging issue of the health of refugee women.

147. Regional and country activities have been fostered. For example, a meeting was held in the European Region on the theme "Women's health counts", focusing on women's health in the countries of central and eastern Europe. Reports have been prepared in a number of WHO regions for the regional preparatory conferences for the Fourth World Conference on Women, including a report entitled "Old problems, new issues: women's health in Latin America and the Caribbean". WHO is collaborating with many institutions and non-governmental organizations, such as the International Development Research Centre and the Arab Alliance, to organize workshops, training seminars and other actions that are action-oriented and are aimed at strengthening countries' capacities to improve women's health.

4. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

148. Education and capacity-building for girls and women at all levels and in all fields, together with incentives for a broader participation by women in cultural life, research and communication, are the main areas of UNESCO concern in preparing for the Fourth World Conference on Women and beyond. Particular attention is given to the most vulnerable groups among women and girls.

149. A network of focal points on women has been established among the UNESCO national commissions. Through that network, as well as through its regional and subregional offices, UNESCO expects to reach a broader constituency of professionals within the UNESCO field of competence. Subregional preparatory conferences are being organized by national commissions, supported through the UNESCO participation programme.

150. The newly established UNESCO Consultative Committee on Women, chaired by the Director-General, is expected to bring fresh insights and approaches to assisting in the preparation of the Conference and in the formulation of a new post-Beijing strategy and policy.

151. Among specific UNESCO activities in preparation for the Conference are:

(a) Three meetings of the UNESCO Consultative Committee on Women, the first of which took place on 21 and 22 April 1994;

(b) A high-level consultation on women's contribution to the culture of peace, to be held in spring 1995;

(c) An international symposium on the theme "Women and media, access to expression and decision-making", to be held in February 1995 in Toronto;

(d) A consultation on education for development for women and out-of-school girls in the least developed countries, to be held in Paris in December 1994;

(e) The preparation of a global plan of action for girls' and women's education;

(f) The celebration of International Literacy Day on 8 September 1995 in Beijing, with laureates of UNESCO literacy prizes for newly literate as well as highly literate women;

(g) The organization of round tables in the framework of the non-governmental organizations Forum on violence and sexual exploitation, women in Islamic countries and women and higher education.

152. UNESCO is continuing a publication programme specifically geared towards the Conference, as well as issuing other publications with a special emphasis on women and girls.

5. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

153. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is in the process of preparing its contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women within the framework of its mandate. At the General Conference of UNIDO held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in 1993, UNIDO reaffirmed in its resolution GC.5/Res.11 the importance of the integration of women in industrial development and requested the Director-General to contribute to the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women by highlighting issues relating to women in industrial development. Through the restructuring of the UNIDO secretariat and a streamlining of the activities of the organization, UNIDO will pay continued attention to the gender dimensions. In 1994, the Director-General of UNIDO established an internal task force on the preparations for the World Conference.

154. In response to the request of its General Conference, a global study entitled "Participation of women in manufacturing: patterns, determinants and future trends" was completed in 1993. It is considered as one of the effective tools for UNIDO to create a typology of women's involvement in the economy with particular reference to the manufacturing sector. As an input to the regional preparatory meetings for the World Conference, UNIDO is currently undertaking the same analysis at the regional level in cooperation with the regional commissions. A draft report for the ESCAP region was submitted to the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, held in Jakarta from 7 to 14 June 1994. It includes proposed strategies and plans of action for each of the groupings identified in the study.

155. UNIDO will strengthen its cooperation with the non-governmental organizations in order to fully reflect the situation and needs of women at all levels of industrial development from the policy-level to the programme and

project levels. UNIDO has actively been involved in that endeavour: it participated in the non-governmental organizations Forum at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the ESCAP symposium of non-governmental organizations on women in development held in Manila in November 1993. UNIDO, in cooperation with a regional non-governmental organization, plans to establish at the non-governmental organizations Forum at the Conference an exhibition booth on women and technology. In addition, UNIDO will organize jointly with the Yokohama Women's Forum an Expert Group Meeting on Women Entrepreneurs in Sustainable Economic Development in Yokohama, Japan, in October 1994.

III. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

156. Under the leadership of Khunying Supatra Masdit, the Convener of the Forum, the non-governmental organizations Forum on Women '95 has continued its preparatory activities since the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 1994. The preparations are aimed at ensuring the involvement of non-governmental organizations at all levels in the formulation of the draft Platform for Action and organizing a substantive non-governmental organizations Forum in Beijing.

157. The Forum structure is composed of a Planning Committee, Facilitating Committee and secretariat. The Planning Committee, which is the programme advisory body of the Forum, has been expanded to include 276 non-governmental organizations. The Facilitating Committee acts as the executive body. It is composed of the Convener as chair, the Executive Director, the President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO), the Coordinator of the non-governmental organizations Forum in Nairobi, a representative of the China Organizing Committee, the chairs of the non-governmental organization Committees on the Status of Women in New York, Vienna and Geneva, and two focal points from each of the United Nations regions. An Executive Director was appointed in February 1994. The secretariat provides support for regional and global non-governmental organizations activities and organizes the Forum in Beijing.

158. Unprecedented in the history of United Nations conferences and non-governmental organizations forum preparations has been the strong structure on the regional level. Regional focal points have been instrumental in forming non-governmental organizations working groups on the regional and subregional levels. Since preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women began, non-governmental organizations have been an active force at all levels. At a national level, non-governmental organizations are engaged in providing input to national reports, drafting their own national reports from a non-governmental organizations perspective and organizing dialogues on gender issues. Regionally, non-governmental organizations are organized into working groups along issue lines. These regional working groups are also responsible for organizing the non-governmental organizations Forum parallel to each of the regional intergovernmental conferences being held in 1994. On the international level, non-governmental organizations are actively networking across issue and geographical lines to prepare their positions on the critical areas of concern identified in the draft Platform for Action, and raising public awareness about the Forum and the World Conference. Increasingly, non-governmental

organizations are being included in official government delegations, contributing to building greater dialogue between non-governmental organizations and Governments. The Forum works closely with the Conference secretariat to include the substantive participation of youth in all the preparatory activities.

159. Prior to the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, non-governmental organizations will meet in New York on 13 and 14 March 1995 to bring together non-governmental organizations positions that have been developed at the regional non-governmental organizations meetings and other non-governmental organizations preparatory activities. A priority area for non-governmental organizations over the next year will be strengthening sections of the draft Platform for Action dealing with financial mechanisms and institutional arrangements, including post-Beijing structures.

160. Non-governmental organizations are also actively following the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development to ensure that there are strong linkages among the three conferences, particularly since the Fourth World Conference on Women will present an opportunity to build upon the agreements made in the two previous conferences.

161. In June 1994, the Facilitating Committee went on a working visit to Beijing to discuss arrangements for the Forum with the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum Committee of the China Organizing Committee. The site of the Forum will be the Beijing Workers Sports Services Centre, located approximately 20 minutes from the site of the World Conference. It was decided that registration for the Forum will begin in August 1994. About 25,000 participants are expected to attend the Forum, which is to be held from 30 August to 8 September 1995.

Notes

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.IV.2.

2/ Ibid., Sales No. E.90.XVII.3.

Annex

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1994-1995

1994

Dates	Event	Venue
1-6 August	Nordic Forum	Turku, Finland
22 August-7 September	Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development: second session	New York
Summer	NGO/ECE Symposium (proposed)	Geneva
September	UNESCO international meeting of experts on violence and sexual exploitation	Seoul
September	IPU meeting of women parliamentarians	Paris
5-13 September	International Conference on Population and Development	Cairo
19-23 September	Regional Non-governmental Organizations Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean	Mar del Plata, Argentina
22-25 September	ECLAC Regional Youth Consultation	Mar del Plata, Argentina
25-29 September	Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Conference	Mar del Plata, Argentina
26-27 September	ECE Intergovernmental Meeting to discuss the expected outcome of the European Regional Preparatory Conference	Geneva
10-14 October	Conference secretariat expert group meeting on "Development: promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills" (priority theme for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women)	To be determined
13-16 October	ECE Regional Youth Consultation	Vienna
17-21 October	European Regional Preparatory Conference	Vienna
October	Regional Non-governmental Organizations Forum for Europe (proposed)	Vienna

30 October-1 November	ESCWA Regional Youth Consultation	Amman
6-10 November	Western Asian Regional Preparatory Conference	Amman
7-11 November	Conference secretariat expert group meeting on "Equality: equality in economic decision-making" (priority theme for the thirty-ninth session of the CSW)	New York
10-13 November	ECA Regional Youth Consultation	Dakar
13-15 November	Regional NGO Forum for Africa	Dakar
16-23 November	African Regional Preparatory Conference	Dakar
27-30 November	Round table on issues concerning the eradication of poverty (German Development Foundation in cooperation with the Conference secretariat)	Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania
5-9 December	Conference secretariat expert group meeting on peace: women in international decision-making (priority theme for the nineteenth session of the CSW)	New York
December	UNESCO consultation on education for development for women and out-of-school girls in the least developed countries	Paris
	INSTRAW Interregional Conference on Women, Environment and Health	Santo Domingo

1995

Dates	Event	Venue
16-27 January	Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development: third session	New York
16 January-3 February	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: fourteenth session	New York
January-March	Commission on Human Rights	Geneva

9-11 February	Council of Europe Conference in anticipation of the Fourth World Conference on Women: "Democracy and equality: Challenge or utopia"	Strasbourg, France
28 February-3 March	UNESCO International Symposium: Women and media, access to expression and decision-making	Toronto
6-12 March	World Summit for Social Development	Copenhagen
9-24 March	Non-governmental organizations consultation and meetings	New York
13-14 March	Nineteenth Inter-agency Meeting on Women	New York
15 March-4 April	Commission on the Status of Women: thirty-ninth session	New York
Spring	UNESCO high-level consultation on women's contribution to the "Culture of Peace"	To be determined
30 August-8 September	NGO Forum	Beijing
4-15 September	Fourth World Conference on Women	Beijing